

1948

(3/4)

Box 68, Folio 10





The temporal position of the Abasolo complex is at present not certain due to the lack of excavated sites with stratigraphy. However, by means of the trade points that occur in the complex and the Abasolo complex points that appear in other sites, as well as the occurrence of some of these sites in strata under other nearby deposits, it is possible to approximate its temporal position. This should be tested by future excavations.

First we shall consider the earliest aspects of this culture. In buried strata A. E. Anderson of Brownsville uncovered points of the Abasolo complex (which in his field notes he called the Old Cayo complex). The Brownsville complex sites were usually not buried sites so he concluded that the Abasolo (Old Cayo) complex preceded the Brownsville complex in the Rio Grande Delta region. His correlation of the Brownsville and Abasolo complexes in northernmost Tamaulipas is borne out by my findings in the deltas of the San Fernando River. Just north of Rancho los Lidios on the San Fernando, site Tm<sup>C</sup>53 was found to be in a stratum that underlay that of site Tm<sup>C</sup>48 about one-fourth mile farther downstream. Tm<sup>C</sup>53 is an Abasolo complex site while Tm<sup>C</sup>48 is a Brownsville complex site. On the north tip of the Island at the mouth of the San Fernando River two projectile points and a scraper of the Brownsville complex types lay atop a steep bluff (site Tm<sup>C</sup>56). Further down the west side of the island at the foot of the same bluff was a shell strata which yielded projectile points of the Abasolo type (Tm<sup>C</sup>57). Thus it would appear that from the San Fernando River to the northern part of Cameron County the Abasolo complex preceded the Brownsville complex. A second factor governing the determination of the earlier extension of this culture is the discovery of the Langtry stemmed type of projectile points at Abasolo sites. These occur at only







five sites but are significant in that they are diagnostic of the Pecos River focus of the Big Bend area. The end of the use of these points is dated by Kelley on the basis of the fact that dateable southwestern sherds (El Paso Polychrome) are found in the sequentially following Chisos focus. Therefore the end of the Pecos River focus is dated at 1000 A. D.<sup>24</sup> Kelley tentatively dates the whole focus as being between 500 and 1000 A. D. The third factor is that Pueblito sherds (dateable as late Teotihuacan and possibly around 900 A. D.)<sup>25</sup> are present at these sites. The final factor is that the Repelo complex appears to be earlier than the Abasco complex. Repelo site has Langtry stemmed points in greater abundance than the Abasco complex. This I interpret as indicating that the Repelo complexes existed during most of the earlier period of the Pecos River focus, while the Abasco complex existed only during the latter part of the time period. On the basis of all the above data I place the beginning of the Abasco complex as being about 800 A. D.

The termination of the Abasco complex is slightly different north of the San Fernando River and south of it. North of the river stratigraphy indicated that the Brownsville complex terminated existence or dominance in that area. Since the Brownsville complex began about 1000 A. D. this date<sup>26</sup> becomes the termination date of the Abasco complex in the area north of the San Fernando River and along the coast. South of the San Fernando the termination of this culture is dated by trade materials found

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<sup>24</sup>Kelley, Campbell and Lehmer, op. cit.

<sup>25</sup>Jorge R. Acosta, "La cuarta y quinta temporada de excavaciones en Tula, Hgo.," Revista Mexicana de Estudios Antropológicos, VII (Mexico, D. F., 1945), 25-35.

<sup>26</sup>For explanation, see page 22.







at the Abasco sites and the finding of Abasco articles in other kinds of sites. The finding of Brownsville points (Brownsville Concave, Matamoras Triangular and Rio Grande Concave Base) at four Abasco sites hints that south of San Fernando River the Abasco complex was contemporaneous with the Brownsville complex. However, the finding Period VI, Huastec sherds at Tm<sup>C</sup>29 and Tm<sup>C</sup>39 indicate more definitely that this complex may have been extended into the late prehistoric and posthistoric periods. This contemporaneity of Abasco and Huastec VI is borne out by the fact that in the excavation of Tm<sup>C</sup>34 (a Huastec site) the Abasco Round Based points were found in levels containing Huastec VI sherds.

The relationships of the Abasco complex with other prehistoric groups is borne out by the trade points found at Abasco sites and the diagnostic Abasco points found in deposits of other cultures. Since their sites have little refuse and indicate a nomadic or semi-nomadic end, also, since the distribution of their sites extends from the Esalebones, Mexico to San Antonio, Texas, one would expect these people to have a variety of contact with other cultures. The trade points seem to indicate exactly that.

As previously noted, early contact existed with the Pecos River focus.<sup>27</sup> Evidently, later contacts were with the Brownsville and Huastec people as attested by trade materials just mentioned.<sup>28</sup> There was, moreover, one point found that indicates contact up into the central region of Texas. This point, a Keechi Concave type was found at Tm<sup>C</sup>130. The broad based tanged points, the small side notched points, and a small pointed stemmed point

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<sup>27</sup> See Page 40.

<sup>28</sup> Ibid.







also, bear resemblance to central Texas types.<sup>29</sup> However, exact designation of these types must await further publications concerning central Texas materials.

### The Repelo Complex

The sites of the Repelo complex were all found within a relatively small area. The most southern site was near Eslabones in the Sierra de Tamaulipas; on the east one site was found near Verde about three miles from the coast; on the west, just north of Abasco; and on the north, one site near Laredo (See Figure 5). Only eighteen sites of this culture were found and at most of the sites few artifacts were available. A good deal more work should be done on this culture complex.

The diagnostic projectile points of this complex are of three types (see Tables 4 and 5).

Repelo Round Base. Twenty-three of this type were found at fourteen sites. The points vary in length from two and one-quarter inches to three inches in length and are from one to two inches wide. The points are very thin, being between one-eighth and one-fourth inches in thickness. They are teardrop shaped. The chipping is excellent and the points show not only small re-touched flakes along the edges but also on the surfaces (see Plate VII, figures 1, 2, 3, and 4).

Jimenez Side Notched. These points vary in length from one and one-half inches to three inches (with the majority of the points being from two to three inches long). Their widths are from seven-eighths of an inch to one and one-half inches. The side notches are unusual in that they are chipped from opposite sides. The base is usually the widest part of the body

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<sup>29</sup> Personal communication with J. C. Kelley, University of Texas.







and usually rounded. Side notches occur about one-eighth to one-fourth inches above the base. The edges are roughly parallel from the base to about one-half their length and then are convex to the point. Twelve of this type of point were found at eight sites. This type of point has not been found on sites of other cultures. The points are thin and well chipped. (See Plate VII, figures 9, 10, and 11.)

Repele Triangular. The points are between two and three inches long and from one to two inches wide. The sides are slightly convex and the base is straight. The chipping is very poorly done and irregular retouching occurs along the edges. Thirty-one of this type were found at ten sites (See Plate VII, figures 5, 6, 7, and 8).

Other artifacts found at these sites include flake and side scrapers, small humpbacked scrapers, pointed scrapers or gravers, large chippers, long square based blades, and three parts of grinding stones.


Trade points in this culture include five Pecos River points, one Abasco Triangular, two Tortugas Triangular, and some long (three inches) stemmed points having tangs.


The chronological position is not well determined but the frequency of Langtry stemmed indicate it existed from 500 to 1000 A. D. Seeming lack of contact with the Abasco, Huastec, and Brownsville complexes relegate it to the earlier portion of this time and I believe that the lack of contact with the Abasco complex may be explained by the hypothesis that the Repele complex sequential precedes it south of the San Fernando River. In fact there is a good possibility that the Repele complex developed into the Abasco complex.






KEY:

 - Repelo Complex area

 - Limits of the area

 - Possible limits

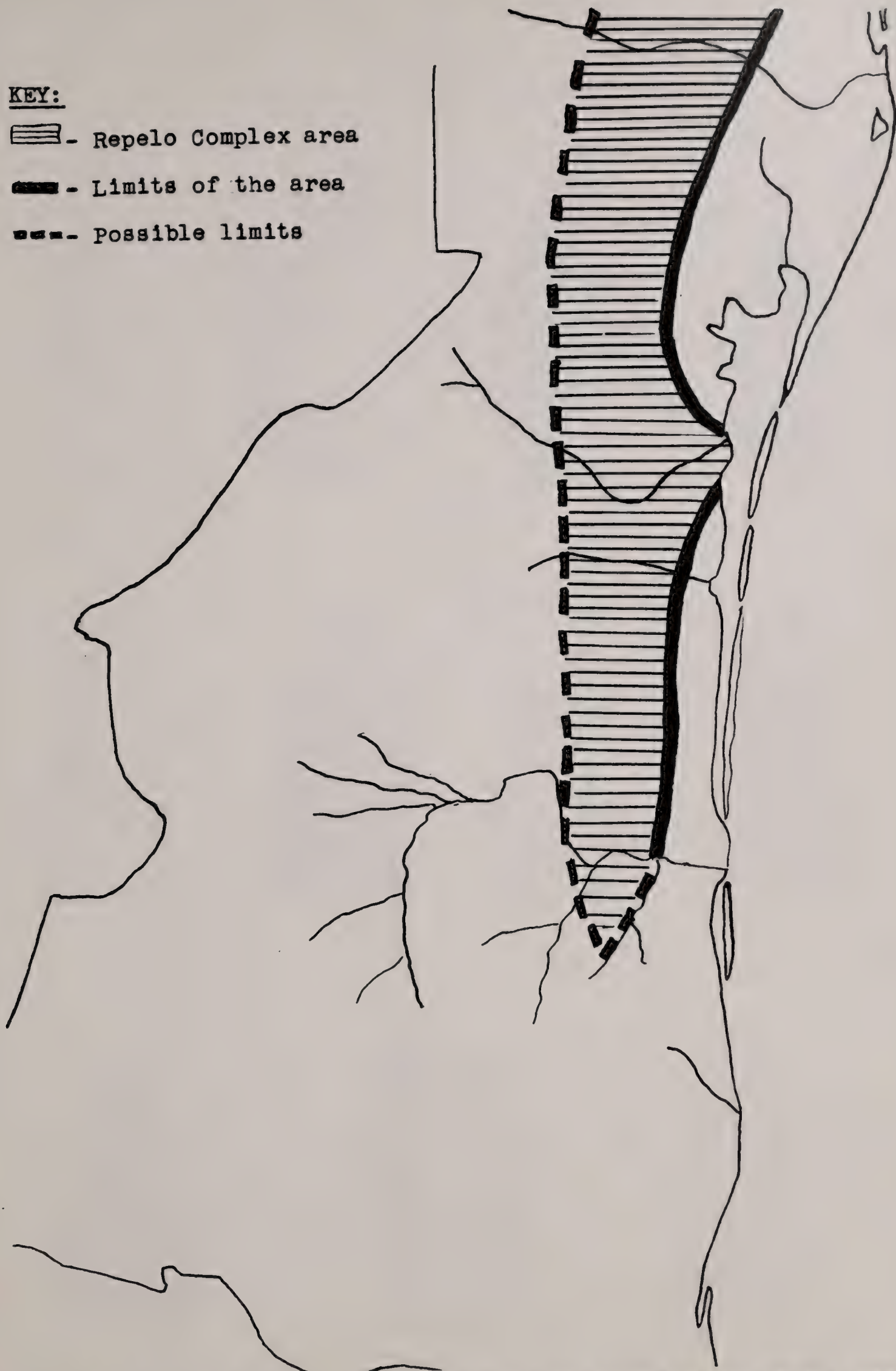


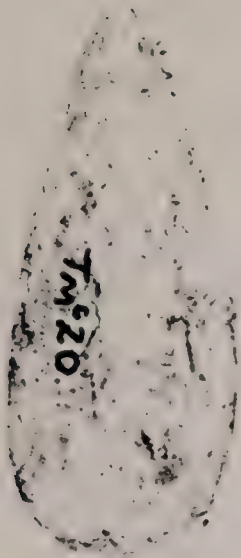
Fig. 5. The distribution of the Repelo Complex in Tamaulipas



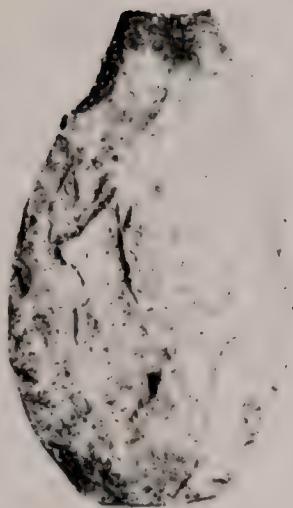


## PLATE VII

## REPELO COMPLEX PROJECTILE POINTS



1.



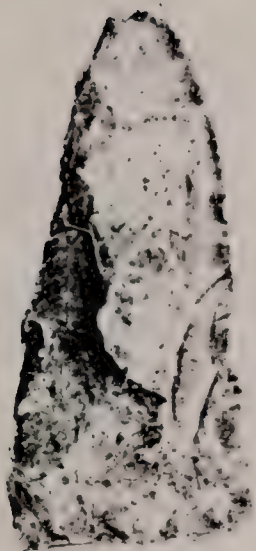
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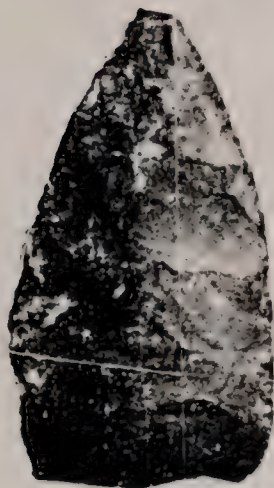
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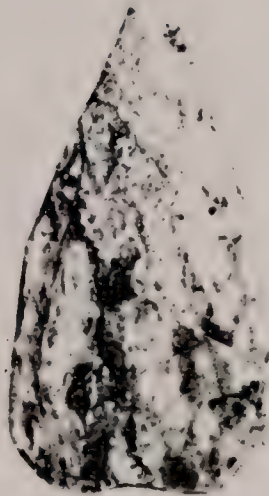
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5.



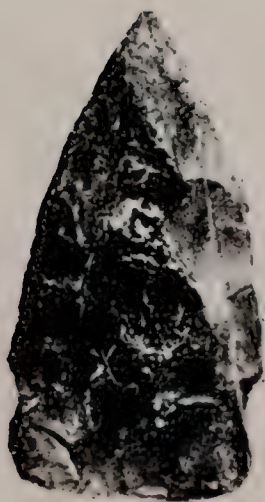
6.



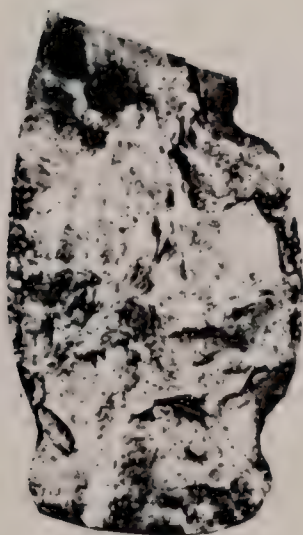
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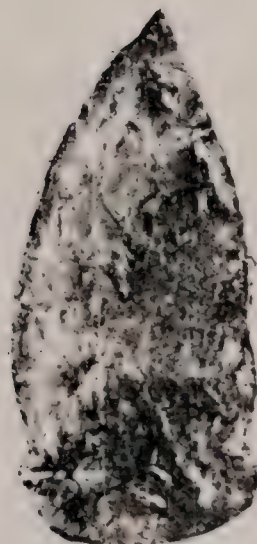
8.



9.



10.



11.





TABLE 4

CORRELATION OF THE ARTIFACT TYPES AND COMPONENTS  
OF THE REPULO COMPLEX

| Artifact Types           | Tm<br>2 | Tm<br>5 | Tm<br>17 | Tm<br>19 | Tm<br>20 | Tm<br>22 | Tm<br>10 | Tm<br>24 | Tm<br>33 |
|--------------------------|---------|---------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| <u>Diagnostic Points</u> |         |         |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |
| Repelo round base        | 2       |         | 7        | 1        | 4        | 1        | 2        | 1        | 1        |
| Repelo Triangular        | 1       | 1       |          |          | 3        | 1        | 1        |          | 1        |
| Jimenez Side notched     |         | 1       | 1        | 1        | 6        |          |          | 1        |          |
| <u>Trade Points</u>      |         |         |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |
| Langtry stemmed          |         |         |          | 1        |          |          | 1        |          | 2        |
| Tortugas triangular      | 1       |         |          |          | 1        |          |          |          |          |
| San Fernando stemmed     | 1       |         |          |          |          |          |          | 1        |          |
| Abasco triangular        |         |         |          |          | 1        |          |          |          |          |
| <u>Scrapers</u>          | 1       | 1       | 1        | 1        |          |          |          |          |          |
| Chopper                  | 1       |         |          |          | 1        |          | 1        |          |          |

| Artifact Types           | Tm<br>7 | Tm<br>37 | Tm<br>27 | Tm<br>164 | Tm<br>165 | Tm<br>166 | Tm<br>247 |
|--------------------------|---------|----------|----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| <u>Diagnostic Points</u> |         |          |          |           |           |           |           |
| Repelo round base        | 2       |          | 1        | 3         | 2         |           | 1         |
| Repelo triangular        |         | 1        | 1        | 4         |           | 17        |           |
| Jimenez side notched     | 1       | 1        |          |           |           | 1         |           |
| <u>Trade Points</u>      |         |          |          |           |           |           |           |
| Langtry stemmed          |         |          |          | 1         | 1         | 3         | 1         |
| Tortugas triangular      |         |          |          | 1         | 1         | 1         |           |
| <u>Scrapers</u>          |         |          |          |           |           | 2         | 1         |

| Artifact Types           | Tm<br>163 | Tm<br>160 |
|--------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| <u>Diagnostic Points</u> |           |           |
| Repelo round base        | 1         | 1         |
| Repelo triangular        | 1         |           |







TABLE 5

TOTAL NUMBER AND OCCURRENCE OF ARTIFACTS  
OF THE REPELO COMPLEX

| Artifact Type        | Number<br>of<br>Specimens | Number of<br>Sites that<br>Type Occurs at |
|----------------------|---------------------------|---|
| Repelo round base    | 32                        | 14  |
| Repelo triangular    | 31                        | 10  |
| Jimenez side notched | 12                        | 4   |
| <u>Trade Points</u>  |                           |   |
| Langtry stemmed      | 11                        | 7   |
| Tertugas triangular  | 8                         | 5   |
| San Fernando stem    | 2                         | 2   |
| Abasolo              | 1                         | 1   |
| Mapper               | 3                         | 3   |

Summary

In conclusion, it appears that much of prehistoric northern Tamaulipas was inhabited by at least two groups who were semi-nomadic hunters. In the San Fernando to Cameron county Texas region, one of these groups, the Abasolo, appears to be the oldest thus far found and comes before the Brownsville complex. Further south this complex may have continued until historic times. Also, south of the San Fernando river and west of the Rio Grande delta area this culture was preceded by the Repelo complex. Contacts of this group appear to be most numerous with the Pecos River focus. During Abasolo times, contacts were also with their neighbors in Tamaulipas and with cultures in central Texas. This wide variety of contacts might well be expected of a group of nomads whose culture area extends from the Sierra de Tamaulipas to San Antonio. However, in spite of the large variety of con-





lect of both these groups, neither appear to have been intimately concerned with the transference of culture elements from New America to the Southern United States.





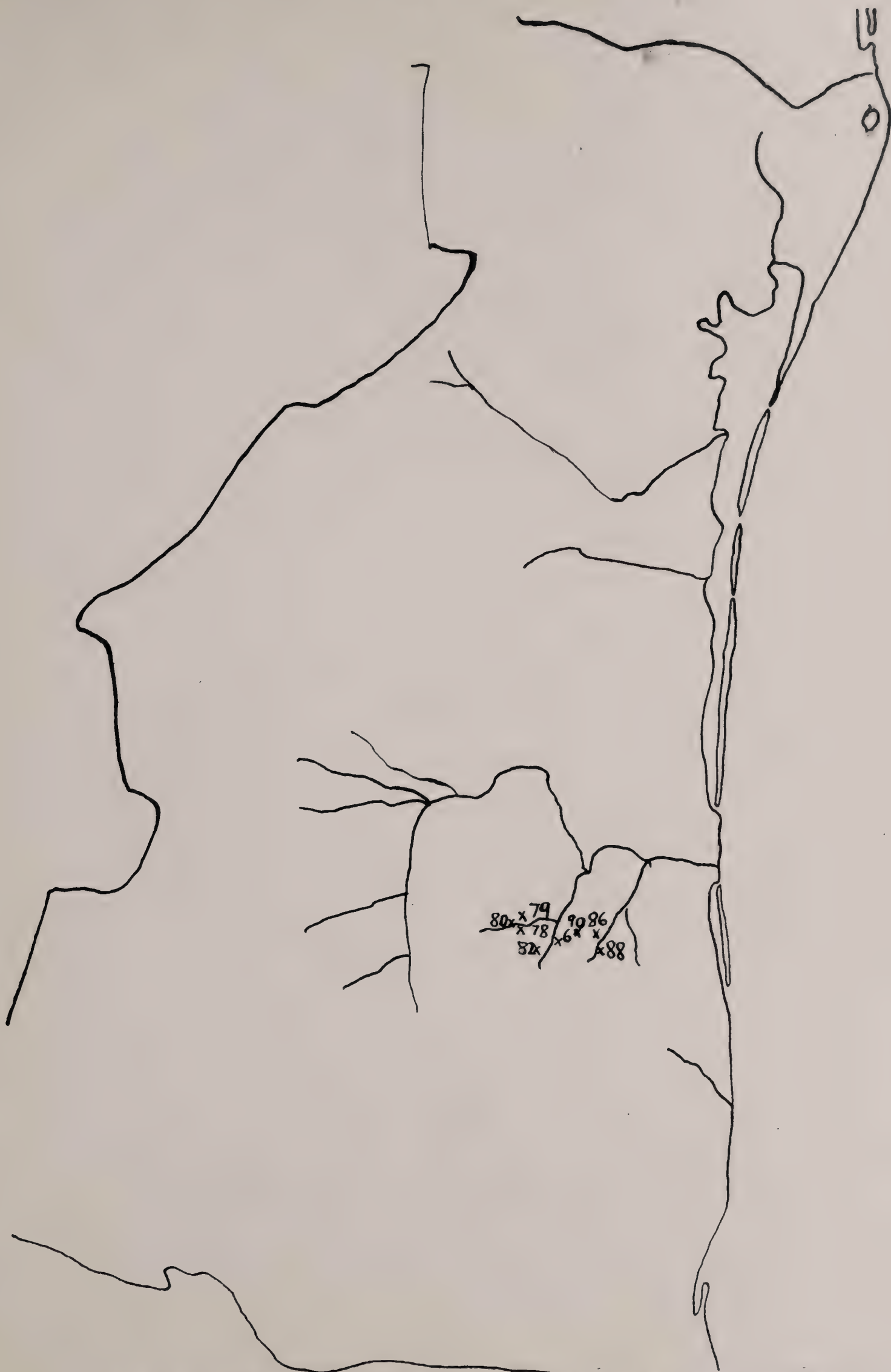


Fig. 6. The location of sites of the Pueblito Complex





## CHAPTER III

### THE PUEBLITO COMPLEX

#### Introduction

South of the Soto la Marina River and about thirty miles west of the coast in the northern extremities of the Sierra de Tamaulipas is the Pueblito culture complex (see Figure 6). This culture represents the farthest northward extension of the more complex prehistoric remains (having stone architecture, sophisticated pottery, agriculture, and a complex religious ceremonialism) of Mexico and, of course, is the nearest to the southeastern part of the United States. Prieto<sup>30</sup> and Meade<sup>31</sup> have classified sites of this culture as Huastec on the basis of round stone houses and pyramids. However, Gabriel Soldner indicates in his ethnographic report that it is a distinctive entity.<sup>32</sup> Furthermore, Dr. Jose Martinez of the Escuela Industrial of Victoria, Tamaulipas showed me sherds from the Pueblito ruin that were definitely not Huastec and which had, moreover, engraving on them. Due to the proximity of this "high" culture to the Southeast, the engraved sherds used by this culture, and the fact that it was a new unknown set of ruins, it was imperative that the sites be at least visited and the materials described and analyzed.

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<sup>30</sup> Alejandro Prieto, Historia, Geografia y Estadística del Estado de Tamaulipas (Mexico: 1873).

<sup>31</sup> Joaquín Meade, La Huasteca (Mexico: Editorial Cassic, Publicaciones Históricas, 1942).

<sup>32</sup> G. Soldner, Op. cit.





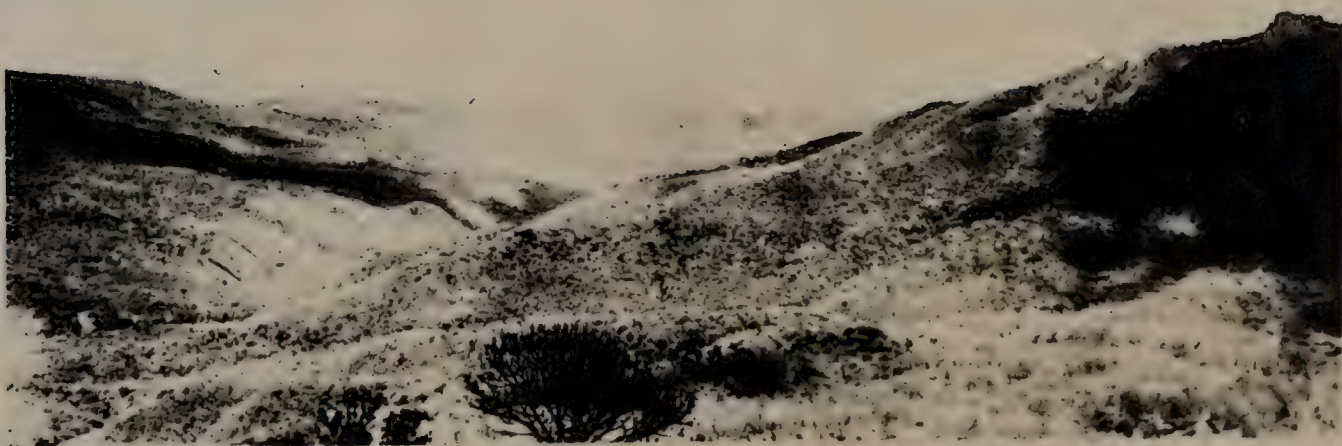
PLATE VIII  
PUEBLITO RUINS



1.



2.



3.





The ruins are situated quite some distance from present habitations as well as from a permanent water supply. Thus it was necessary to explore them as quickly as possible and yet obtain some sort of a sample of the material culture of the sites. Thick vegetation ruled out relying on only surface collections. (See Plate VIII, figure 3.) Thus each large site visited was tested by a small trench five feet wide and from ten to twenty two feet long which was dug from the surface in six inch levels down into the basic soil. The materials from these trenches and from the surface of the Pueblito site Tm<sup>h</sup> (at which the dense vegetation had burned off) yielded sufficient materials to justify a preliminary statement concerning the sequence of artifacts and ceramics as well as a description of the other items of the material culture of the Pueblito peoples.

The ceramics, being numerically the largest group of artifacts showing the greatest stylistic variations, were analyzed to determine possible temporal change. All the features of the pottery were checked against the levels. Secondly, the pastes and surface finishes and shapes were correlated. They fell into five classes which I have called wares.<sup>33</sup> These wares in turn were checked against the levels. In both cases, definite trends and significant ceramic changes were found. On the basis of the trends and the changes it was possible to divide the Pueblito complex into three periods. (Unfortunately the three periods did not occur at any one site, although at three sites two of these periods were found.) In the future it is hoped that sufficient rim sherds, molasjete feet, and engraved sherds will be

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<sup>33</sup> J. H. Steward, "Ceramic Stratigraphy at Cerro de la Neblina," *Bureau of American Ethnology, Bulletin 140* (Washington: 1943), 3. "For present purposes, 'a ware' may be defined as a ceramic group in which three criteria (color, vessel shapes and paste color) most frequently associated."





excavated to allow the establishment of ceramic types that will indicate the periods more clearly. In the following pages I shall first describe the excavated sites of the Pueblito culture. In this description I shall briefly indicate the sites and their locations; the excavations; then fully depict the periods based upon the wares (and finally mention the other artifacts found at the site). The section will be concluded with charts of the periods under discussion. This will be followed by a section on materials from sites not fully excavated, as well as a brief account of other sites of which I was informed but did not visit. The final part of the chapter will be concerned with the chronological position and cultural relationships of the Pueblito culture as well as a consideration of further problems and possible methods for attacking these problems.

#### TE<sup>R</sup> 36 - CERRO DE GUADALOUPE<sup>34</sup>

This ruin is situated on the eastern top half of Guadalupe mountain and represents the most eastern extension of the Pueblito complex. It is located at 98° longitude and 23-1/2° latitude and is about four miles west of the town Eslabones. The site consists of about three hundred round masonry house platforms and one large round pyramid (see Figure 7). The round house platforms consist of an outer masonry wall about three feet high; the inner portion of the platform is filled with large rocks and refuse to the level of the outer walls (see Plate VIII, figure 1). About half the houses have steps leading from the ground level to the surfaces of the platforms. In the eastern part of this ruin is a rectangular plaza surrounded by twelve house platforms with a large round pyramid in the northern side of the plaza. West of the

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<sup>34</sup>Probably the Guadalupe site mentioned by Frieto, op. cit., p. 37.





large pyramid is a depression now holding water (called a 'tanque' by the natives) which probably was a source of water for the inhabitants of the site. Whether it was artificially constructed or not could not be determined.

Excavation took place in a small secondary plaza southwest of the main plaza. (See Plate VIII, figure 3.) This area was chosen because a modern waterhole indicated that prehistoric deposits extended to a depth of at least three feet. The excavation consisted of a fifteen by five foot trench running east and west. The trench was dug to a depth of five feet, at which point sterile soil was encountered. The trench was excavated in six inch levels. The method employed in digging was the vertical slicing technique which facilitated the determination of the correct six inch level, as well as the appropriate house floor. Five prehistoric burned clay floors were found, but unfortunately artifacts from the lower three were few. (See Plate IX.)

Comparison of the four lower house floors with the upper floor revealed a significant difference in the ceramic features. Materials from the four lower floors are homogeneous as to ceramic features. For this reason, in the statistics at the end of this section and in the following description of the two periods, I have lumped the lower four floors (and levels four to eight) into one period and the upper floor and its three levels into a later period.

#### Period I

Polished Black Ware. The temper consists of finely ground rock in large amounts. The paste is porous and occasionally striated. The firing is poor, as the shreds are usually dark gray or black from surface to surface. Hardness is about 5.5.





PLATE IX  
CROSS SECTION OF EXCA-  
VATION AT Tm<sup>c</sup>86







Surfaces are polished and painted black. Usually both sides are painted, although rare cases occur where the exteriors are not painted or are painted red.

Decoration is usually absent although eight sherds do have engraving. Six of the engraved designs are parallel lines on the inside of the vessel (probably a molcajete). The other two are on the exterior of a vessel: one is a diamond outlined by parallel lines, while the other is a single line.

Five vessel forms are indicated by the cross-sections of the rims (see Plate X). The predominant form is a straight-rimmed outslowing bowl (see illustration.) Three other forms are of about equal importance: hemispherical bowls recarved rim bowls (both probably associated with molcajetes); outcurving rimmed outflaring bowls; and plates. Least important are outcurved rim on outcurving side bowls.

Five feet were found, all solid conical and of a large size. (See Plate XI, figure 6.)

The Polished Black Ware composes twenty-seven per cent of the total sherds during Period I.

Polished Red Ware. This ware composes nine per cent of the sherds. The temper consists of fine grit in medium amounts. The paste is slightly porous. The firing is uneven, some sherd interiors being fired orange while others are gray. Hardness is about 3.2.

The surfaces appear to have been slipped, polished and then painted an orangish-red. Decoration is totally absent except for the incisions in the interiors of molcajete bowls.

Vessel shapes appear to be confined to three forms: hemispherical bowls (molcajetes?), straight-rimmed outslowing bowls, and out-curving rimmed outflaring bowls. Seven feet were found





and all were large, solid and conical.

Plain Polished Ware. These constitute eleven per cent of the total sherds. The temper is medium sized crushed stone in large amount. The paste is compact, although it shows porous under a microscope. The firing is uneven but well done as the paste ranges in color from light gray to orange. Hardness is about 3. The color of the surfaces is from cream-yellow to brown.

The surfaces appear to be unpainted and are polished. Decoration is absent though two sherds have engraved lines. One of these appears to be accidental while the other is a series of cross-hatched lines.

Five vessel forms occur. The two most prevalent types are straight, round outslipping, and outcurving rimmed outslipping bowls. Hemispherical and incurved rim and outcurved recurved sided bowls occur. Two feet were uncovered, both being solid, small and roughly conical or thimble shaped.

Plain Ware. The temper is medium sized crushed rock or sand in large amounts. In fact, the sherds have a very sandy feel. The paste is compact. The fire fairly well done with the cross section revealing the sherd centers as being a brown color. Hardness is about 3.5.

The surfaces are smoothed. Decoration is absent. Vessel forms include the five types just noted above. Molcajetes are not found nor are feet with this ware.

These compose seventeen per cent of the sherds in the lower levels.

Brushed Ware. The temper is limestone of medium size and in medium amounts. The paste is very porous and the firing is uneven and poor. Sherds have an average hardness of 2.7.





The outer surfaces appear to have been brushed with grass or twigs. The inner surfaces are smooth. The brushing is either horizontal or vertical to the rim. Horizontal brushing appears more often than vertical at all periods.

Shapes are confined to four types of vessels: plates, recurved rim bowls, outcurving outflaring sided bowls and straight rimmed outslipping sided bowls. These sherds compose thirty-six per cent of the total at this level.

Other Artifacts. Other artifacts found in these levels were three clay ladle handles, one straphandle, part of one obsidian flake, flint chips and burned clay.

### Period III

Polished Black Ware. Paste, temper, and surface finish are the same. One difference, however, is that the Black Ware during this period only represents fifteen per cent of the total sherds. Four shapes are found being the outflaring rims, straight rimmed, incurved rim and hemispherical bowls. Perhaps one of the most significant changes is that most molcajete feet are hollow conical shaped with one or two holes in the foot. One foot was of the small thimble-like variety. (See Plate XI, figures 6, 7, and 8.)

Polished Red Ware. During this period, Polished Red Ware composes less than seven per cent of the total sherds. Differences occur in the shape in that hemispherical bowls are absent and incurved rim and recurved rim bowls occur. Molcajete feet are either solid, large conical or solid small conical or thimble-like in form.

Polished Ware. Polished ware in this period is eighteen per cent of the total, but otherwise is the same as the previous period in all respects except for two engraved sherds. These





two sherds show four parallel engraved lines on each.

Plain Wares. A slight increase in percentage of this ware reveals that it now represents twenty-three per cent of the total. It is significant that ollas with outflowing rims occur in this period as well as an increase of incurved rim bowls.

Brushed Wares. This ware is fundamentally the same as the previous period, the only change being that there has been a very slight increase in the percentage of this ware to forty per cent.

Other Artifacts. One part of a roller stone was uncovered along with part of one small eroded head of a hand-modeled figurine of an undetermined type.

Surface Collection. Sherds were the same as previously described above. Different from the previous material was an outcurving neck of an olla with a polished surface as well as one metate. The metate has a sloping grinding surface with the back one-third at a forty-five degree angle to the front grinding surface. On the basal portion opposite the junction of the posterior and the anterior grinding surface is a ridge running from side to side.

TABLE 6

VERTICAL DISTRIBUTION OF WARES, SHAPE AND PERCENTAGE  
AT T<sub>1</sub><sup>R</sup> 36

| Period    | Wares        |                |                |              |              | Totals |
|-----------|--------------|----------------|----------------|--------------|--------------|--------|
|           | Polished Red | Polished Black | Polished Plain | Plain        | Brushed      |        |
| Period II | 75<br>(99)   | 185<br>(177)   | 175<br>(197)   | 225<br>(203) | 405<br>(403) | 1223   |
| Period I  | 75<br>(114)  | 275<br>(433)   | 115<br>(175)   | 175<br>(275) | 305<br>(500) | 1604   |



TABLE 6 (Continued)

| Period    | Shrubs      |            |           |           |             |             |             | Totals |
|-----------|-------------|------------|-----------|-----------|-------------|-------------|-------------|--------|
|           | \           | \          | )         | )         | \           | (           | \           |        |
| Period II | 5%<br>(4)   | 4%<br>(3)  | 4%<br>(3) | 1%<br>(1) | 41%<br>(27) | 13%<br>(9)  | 32%<br>(21) | 68     |
| Period I  | 17%<br>(15) | 9%<br>(10) | 8%<br>(9) | -         | 37%<br>(44) | 12%<br>(13) | 17%<br>(19) | 114    |

| Period    | Fruit                  |                                 |                   | Totals |
|-----------|------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------|--------|
|           | Large solid<br>Conical | Small solid<br>thimble-<br>like | Hollow<br>Conical |        |
| Period II | 8%<br>(1)              | 30%<br>(4)                      | 11%<br>(3)        | 13     |
| Period I  | 30%<br>(11)            | 14%<br>(2)                      | 11%<br>(1)        | 16     |

Tm<sup>II</sup> - LA SALTA

The La Salta ruin is located about four miles northeast of the town of Piedras Negras and about six miles northwest of the town of Los Angeles. More exactly, it is on a hill just west of the junctions of the La Salta and Casquellas canyons (which runs northeast and appears to be a branch of the Canyon Diablo). Due to dense vegetation it was not totally explored, and may be as large as any of the other ruins discovered. Thirty round stone masonry house platforms were observed as well as four larger pyramids that may surround a plaza. The house and pyramids were of interest in that all had steps. The steps on the pyramids were flanked by square columnades. Also noted were the use of terraces bounded by stone walls and which connected a series of





house platforms on the edge of or along the sides of the hill.

One trench fifteen feet long and five feet wide was sunk into the top of one of the house platforms. The top level of this excavation was from four inches to six inches deep and other levels were six inches; basic caliche soil was encountered at a depth of two and one-half feet. This excavation not only gave us stratigraphic trends of sherds, but also explained the function of these round masonry structures. (See Figure 8.)

The excavation revealed that a four to six inch layer of refuse capped the structure and at a depth of about four inches was found a two inch thick strata of burned clay and wattle and daub. This strata, undoubtedly an occupation level, connected with the top of the masonry stone walls surrounding it. Below this floor was found two feet of refuse materials, sherds and occasional boulders but no more floor levels. The above information can be explained by the following interpretation: that the former inhabitants first constructed circular masonry stone walls to an elevation of about one foot and a half then filled the area inside the walls with whatever materials were handy such as refuse and rock, then on top the walls and fill they constructed a house, probably of wood beams and wattle and daub. As noted the steps that lead from the ground to the top of the structure (not through the walls of the structure) fits rather well with the hypothesis that these circular masonry walls were the walls of a house platform, not the walls of the house.

The sherds from the excavations tend to confirm the concept of two periods of accumulation of refuse (one being accumulated by the people living on top of the house platform while the earlier was accumulated previously and placed inside the platform before the occupation on top). The ceramics from





the platform fill concour rather closely with the Period II deposits found at Tm<sup>86</sup> as to percentages of wares, vessel forms and types of feet. These materials and their strata is thus considered to be a Period II deposit. The sherds from the refuse layer above differ as to content and percentages of ceramic feature and is considered as composing Period III. This allotment of these materials as Period III appear valid as the trends indicated in Tm<sup>86</sup> in Period I and Period II, continue on into this time period.

In the following pages I shall briefly describe the wares of the two periods emphasizing the features showing the chronological differences and period diagnostic features. I shall not attempt to describe the ware fully as this has already been done on pages 55 to 60.

#### Period II

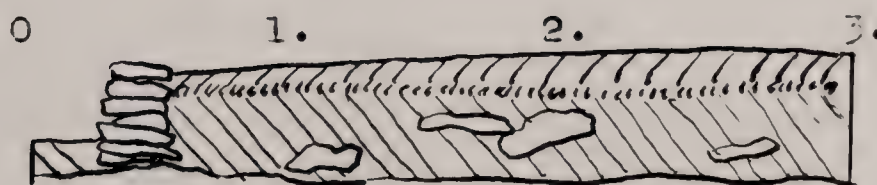
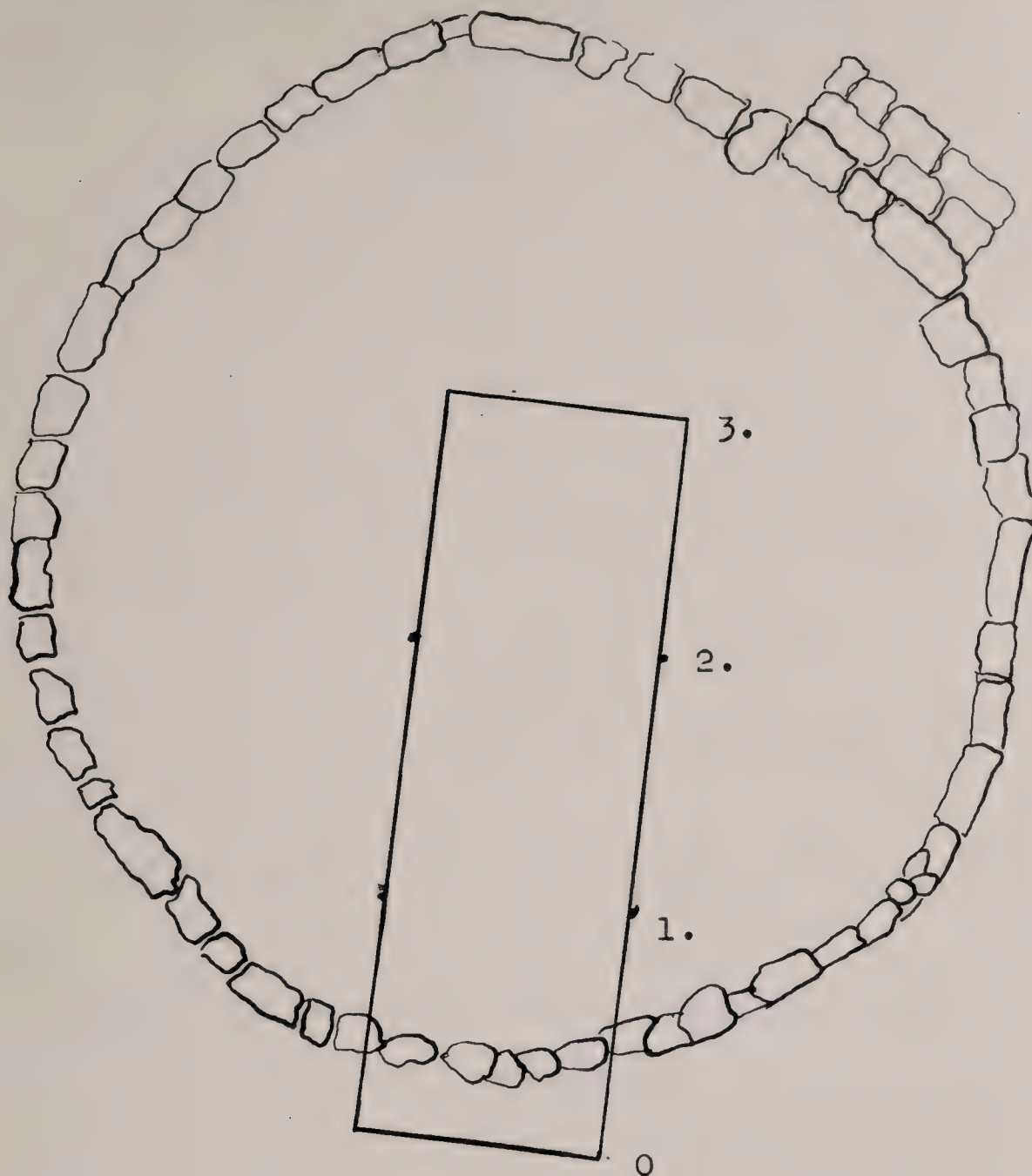
Polished Black Ware. This ware composes sixteen of the total sherds. The straight rimmed outsloping and outcurved rim outflaring bowls are the dominant shape though incurved rim hemispherical and recurved bowls are also present. Five molcajete feet were found and three of these were hollow and conical while the fourth and fifth were small, solid and thimble-like.

Polished Red Ware. Only three per cent of the sherds were Polished Red Wares. Shapes were confined to hemispherical, outcurving rimmed, recurved rim bowls and part of one olla with the neck at right angles to the body; two feet were found, one being large, conical and solid while the other was of the thimble-like variety.

Polished Plain Wares. These compose eighteen per cent of the wares. They are the same in every other respect to those found in Period II at Tm<sup>86</sup>.



20 feet distance



**KEY:**


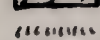
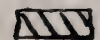
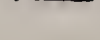
-  - Occupational refuse
-  - Burned floor
-  - Fill
-  - Rocks

Fig. 8. Ground plan and cross-section of excavation at Tm r 79.





Plain Wares. The main difference from  $Ta^{H}35$  is that hemispherical and recurved rim bowls are not so common and ollas with the neck at right angles to the neck are fairly common. Straight rims of outslipping bowls still occur as do the outcurved rims. Some of these outcurved rims appear to be on ollas as well as bowls. This ware composes twenty-seven per cent of the total shards.

Brushed Wares. This ware appears about the same as it was in period II of  $Ta^{H}35$  and it composes thirty-six per cent of the total wares.

### Period III

Polished Black Ware. This composes only fourteen and one-half per cent of the wares. Shapes are the same as the previous period except for a wide mouthed jar shape that has engraved designs. All feet found are hollow and conical. For the first time engraved sherds appear in significant numbers. The engraved designs appear to be of three types:

1. Two sets of four parallel lines forming a triangle with the apex at the tip and the base a single incised line separating the neck from the body (See Plate XII, figure 1).

2. Stepped pyramids filled with vertical lines with the apexes at the tip.

3. Opposed sets of stems filled with vertical lines. The last two type of designs appear on the vertical neck of a wide mouth jar which has a globular body. The neck and body were separated by an incised line (See Plate XII, figure 4).

Polished Red Ware. Not found in this period.

Polished Plain Ware. These made twenty-two and one-half per cent of the total. Vessel forms are the same as in the pre-





vicious period. Part of one small thumb-like foot of a moleajete was found. One engraved sherd was found and its decoration is significant. It is four engraved lines extending down from a ridge of clay. This type of design will be further described in connection with wares of Tm<sup>73</sup> at which eighteen sherds similar to this were found.

Plain Ware. This ware is thirty-two per cent of the total ware and all other features are the same as in the previous period found at this site.

Brushed Ware. This is the same as the previous period except that the percentage is lower being only thirty-one per cent and there appear to have been a slight increase in both the size and amount of limestone temper that was used.

Other Objects. Found in the period III level was a single mold-made figurine head. The headdress is simple and is represented by a single inverted truncated clay band. Two circular ear plugs appear at the side of the head and are about one-half the length of the face. The eyes are merely incised horizontal lines while the eyebrows or supra-orbital ridges are bands of slightly raised clay. The back of the head is slightly concave. In general appearance the head is very similar to the ones found by Ekholm at Panuco,<sup>35</sup> and found by Gamio in the later periods of Teotihuacan.<sup>36</sup> (Plate XIII, Figure 2.)

Also found in Period III was part of a roller metate and an oval shaped flake scraper.

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Ekholm, op. cit., p. 33a.

<sup>35</sup> Manuel Gamio, "La Poblacion del Valle de Teotihuacan," *Secretaria de Agricultura y Fomento, Direccion de Antropologia, Tomo 1* (Mexico, 1922), Lamine 91.



TABLE 7

VERTICAL DISTRIBUTION OF WARE, SHAPES AND FEET AT Tn<sup>R</sup> 73

| Period     | Wares        |                |                |              |              | Total |
|------------|--------------|----------------|----------------|--------------|--------------|-------|
|            | Polished Red | Polished Black | Polished Plain | Plain        | Unfinished   |       |
| Period III | -            | 15%<br>(66)    | 15%<br>(65)    | 30%<br>(137) | 24%<br>(107) | 430   |
| Period II  | 3%<br>(11)   | 18%<br>(135)   | 18%<br>(129)   | 20%<br>(172) | 37%<br>(359) | 900   |

| Period     | Shapes    |            |           |            |             |            |             | Total |
|------------|-----------|------------|-----------|------------|-------------|------------|-------------|-------|
|            | ↘         | ↙          | )         | ⌋          | ↖           | (          | ↗           |       |
| Period III | 5%<br>(2) | 13%<br>(5) | 2%<br>(1) | 3%<br>(3)  | 39%<br>(14) | 10%<br>(4) | 28%<br>(10) | 40    |
| Period II  | 5%<br>(2) | 16%<br>(9) | 7%<br>(4) | 10%<br>(6) | 24%<br>(13) | 5%<br>(3)  | 24%<br>(14) | 57    |

| Period     | Feet                |                        |                | Total |
|------------|---------------------|------------------------|----------------|-------|
|            | Large Solid Conical | Small Solid Thumb-like | Hollow Conical |       |
| Period III | -                   | 20%<br>(1)             | 80%<br>(4)     | 5     |
| Period II  | 12%<br>(1)          | 33%<br>(3)             | 50%<br>(4)     | 8     |

Tn<sup>R</sup> 73 - Los Tanques

This ruin is situated between Canyon Casquella and the Canyon Es Condén. It is about three miles from Piedra Negra and three miles from Los Angeles. The ruin is on top of a long hill running northwest to southeast and has as distinctive features





two large depressions called "Tanques." Structures are not numerous and are situated between the two tanques and north of them. The whole ruin is covered by leaves and small trees.

The house platforms are round masonry walled structure usually having steps. There also occurred five pyramids (ten feet high by forty feet long and thirteen feet wide) made of slabs of rock uprooted by vegetational growth. Two of these pyramids showed broad staircases on the shorter ends which were flanked by square columnades. Another type of structure was noted at this site. It resembles the so-called central structure of the Maya. The central portion is about five to six feet high and is encompassed by a vertical slab-masonry wall. This central portion resembles the house platforms. Leading up to the flat top of the structure are two staircases on opposite sides. The stairs themselves are parallel to the walls and their entrances are in opposite directions.

Two excavations were undertaken at this ruin because leaves covered the ground and made surface collecting impossible. However, a secondary purpose of excavation (to finding sherds) was the solution of the problem of the functions of these round masonry walled structures. Did these structures represent the walls of round house the center of which has since become filled with dirt and parts of the walls, or did these represent round masonry walls that had been filled by their builders so that they would function as platforms for house structures on their surface? To solve this problem two structures were selected for excavation. House I was a large structure with three feet high walls and steps leading to its summit while the other House II proved to be a small structure with walls about one foot high and without steps. These two were chosen as they appeared to be polar





types of the range of kinds of houses that were observed. In both houses a trench three feet wide and fifteen feet long was excavated from the surface of the house down into three inches of the basic caliche filled soil.

Following may be seen ground plans and profiles of the excavations of the two structures. House I revealed the following facts:

1. That the walls of the structure were placed on the basic caliche soil and that no refuse or occupational level was associated with the lower levels of the house.

2. That inside the walls the portion from the caliche to the level of the top of the walls was filled with large rocks (too large and irregular to have been parts of the wall or any room construction), pieces of caliche and very small amounts of refuse and almost no sherds or artifacts.

3. That in the layer on the top structure, which was level, or above the walls of the house was found ninety-nine per cent of all the sherds and artifacts as well as pieces of charcoal and wattle and daub.

The excavation of house II revealed somewhat the same facts that may be summarized as follows:

1. The walls were placed upon the caliche basic subsoil.

2. That above the subsoil to the level of the top of the walls was to be found refuse in small amounts and chunks of caliche. This zone contained no charcoal, wattle and daub or floors.

3. That level which the top of the walls and above was found the greatest concentration of sherds and wattle and daub and that in one place were found three slabs lying horizontal,



fire blackened and level with the top of the walls.

From the above set of facts I have concluded that these round walled masonry structures represented house platforms since the centers are filled with materials that could not possibly be the debris from walls or roofs, since no floors were found in that interior portion and since the tops of these houses represented the floors of houses constructed of wood and wattle and daub, and since refuse and wattle and daub were found only at the top of these structures.

In the excavation two houses only seven hundred and eighty-nine sherds were found, one hundred and sixty being found in House II. Percentages of ware were almost identical in the two houses so I believe them to be of the same period and can be justifiably lumped together in the following pottery description. Percentages of wares and the four molcajete feet seem to justify the inclusion of all the sherds into Period III. The table at the end of this section indicates graphically the justification of this assignment of Period.

### Period III

Black Wares. These compose eight per cent of the total sherds. Shapes are the same except no incurved rim hemispherical bowls are found. Also, there are numerous (five) engraved sherds having the design described on the first kind of engraved ware found on polished black. Two hollow feet were also found.

Polished Red (?). Six sherds of this type were found and represent three-fourths per cent of the total sherds. Though these sherds are painted red and polished the red color is a good deal darker than those previously found.

Polished Plain. (?). These compose twenty per cent of the total sherds. Vessel forms are of five types. Hemispherical





bowls, outsloping straight sides, outsloping outcurving rim sherds and parts of ollas all occur at the other sites in this period. However, new forms, possibly bell shaped (which the polished engraved sherds found at Tn 78 probably belong to) appear to occur in this period. Eighteen sherds of one vessel of this form were found, but unfortunately no rim sherds occurred. This form appears to have a round, large slightly convex base. The sides are straight and insloping from the base. The neck recurves slightly and may lead to an outflowing mouth. On the sides of the vessel the one found four to six inverted V's composed of four parallel lines to a side. A ridge of clay seems to encircle the vessel just above and below the engraved designs and two (or one or none) nodes placed one above the other appear to separate the inverted V designs. This peculiar shape and design appears to be diagnostic of Period III.

One solid thimble-like foot was found as well as one hollow conical foot.

Smooth Wares. These compose thirty-seven and one-fourth per cent of the total sherds and are the same in every respect as those previously described.

Brushed Wares. These compose thirty-four per cent of the total sherds found, and are the same as previously described.

TABLE 3

DISTRIBUTION OF WARE, SHAPE AND FOOT AT Tn<sup>R</sup> 78

| Tn <sup>R</sup> 78 |       |        |        |         |
|--------------------|-------|--------|--------|---------|
| Foot               | Shape | Volume | Wt. in | Brushed |
| 1-1/2              | 25    | 50%    | 27-1/2 | 24      |





TABLE 3 (Continued)

| Stages |             |   |            |             |            |             |
|--------|-------------|---|------------|-------------|------------|-------------|
| ✓      | ✓           | ) | ✓          | ✓           | (          | ✓           |
| -      | 15%<br>(11) | - | 26<br>(31) | 29%<br>(29) | 46<br>(21) | 24%<br>(14) |

| Post        |                  |                |
|-------------|------------------|----------------|
| Large Solid | Small Thumb-like | Hollow Conical |
|             | 13%<br>(1)       | 7%<br>(3)      |

Table 6 - Pueblito

This ruin is probably the best known archaeological site in Tamaulipas. The inhabitants of the area spoke of it numerous times and J. Heade in his book has a map of it and has incorrectly classified it as Huastec.<sup>37</sup>

The site is situated on the hills just east of the Canyon Diablo, about half way between Los Angeles and Eslebonos. The ruin is strewn along the tops and sides of four large hills. It is composed of about two hundred round masonry house platforms (usually without stairs) which occupy no regular pattern; terraces outlined by stone walls; a large depression called a "tanque"; three rectangular pyramids along the south border of the ruin; and a rectangular plaza flanked by ten small round or rectangular pyramids on the east, north, and south, and with a large pyramid in the north part of the plaza (See Figure 9).

<sup>37</sup> Heade, op. cit.



KEY:

- - House platform
- ▣ - Rectangular pyramid
- ⊙ - Round pyramid
- - contour line
- I - 20 feet

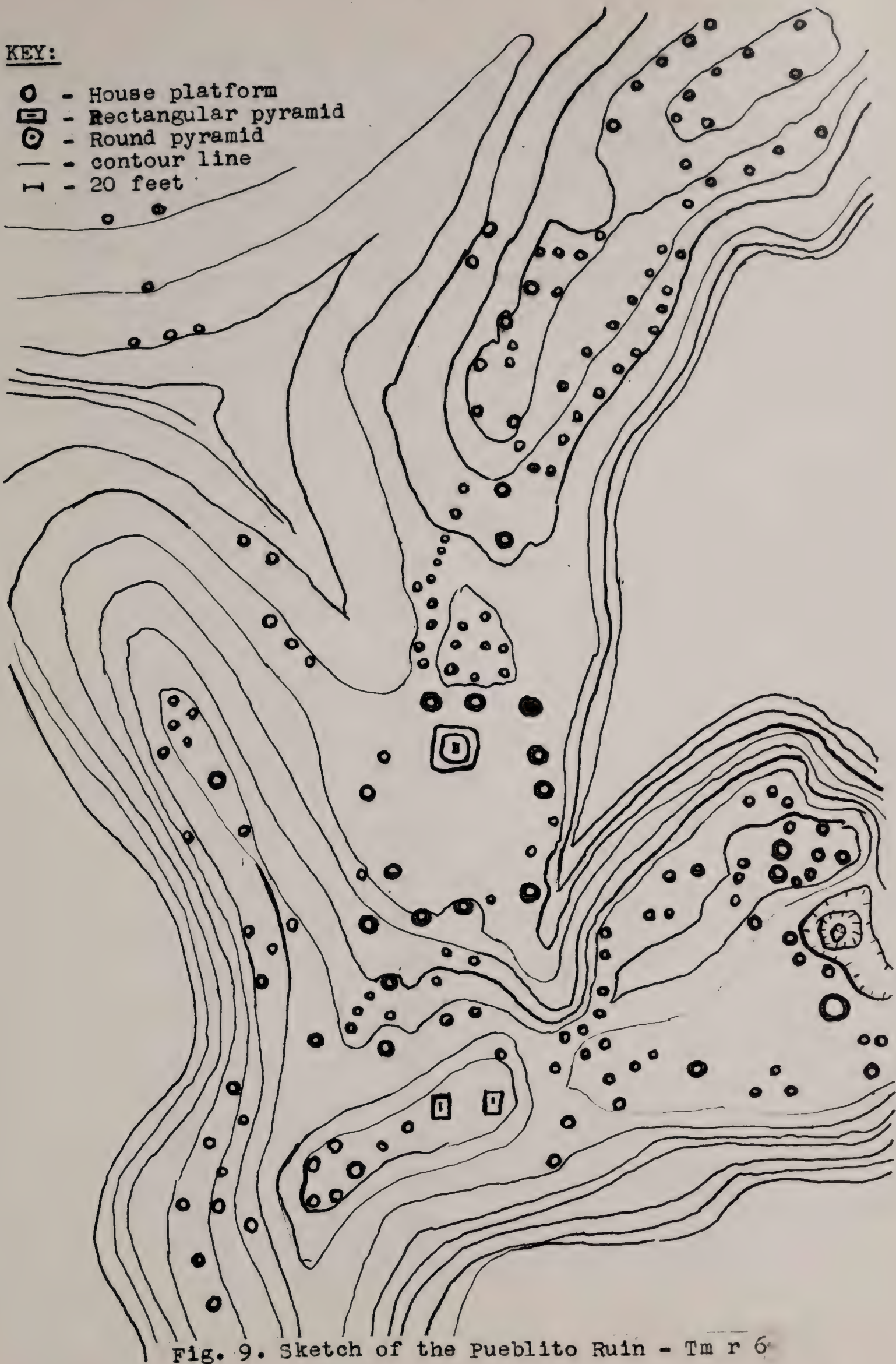


Fig. 9. Sketch of the Pueblito Ruin - Tm r 6





Unlike the other sites it is clear of vegetation and has undergone a good deal of erosion.

The profile of five pits dug by amateurs were examined, and four more were excavated by my party. It appeared that the refuse was not deep and the materials sparse. Fortunately the cleared ground allowed for extensive surface collections. Since my sample of rim sherds, decorated sherds, figurines and artifacts is more numerous than all the other materials from all other ruins and, also, since some new culture objects were found it seems worth while to describe them.

### Pottery

Black Ware. Paste and surface finish were identical to that previously described. One sherd with four parallel engraved lines was found. The interior of one molcajete was found having parallel lines engraved into a polished surface. Shapes indicated (three) outflaring outcurved rim bowls, (one) recurved rim, and one straight rim. Part of two flat bottoms were found. A total of thirty sherds of this ware were collected.

Red Ware. Paste and surface finish were the same as previously described. The decorated sherds, however, were picked up. One sherd had three wide parallel engraved lines while the other showed two incised lines paralleling the lip over which are line groups of parallel engraved lines at acute angles to the incised lines. Shape indicates outflaring outcurving rimmed bowls (six); straight rim bowls; a seed bowl (1); one olls, and evidently another shape with a bulge going around the vessel with parallel bulges above and below it. The total was thirty-two. Also, one solid small conical foot was found.





Polished Plain Ware. This ware though having fundamentally the same paste and surface finish show considerable greater range in decoration, shape and molcajete aspects than heretofore discerned. There appear to have been six types of engraved decoration. The most common appear to be sets of four (rarely six) parallel engraved lines forming V's with their apex toward the lip (see Plate XII, figures 1 and 2). Occasionally this is a ridge first above the apices. Between the V's are one or two nodes of clay. The decoration appears to be on the body of an undiscovered vessel form. (This design and shape are similar to that found on the plain ware at Tm<sup>R</sup>78, House 2.) The second most common design is that of a series of adjacent engraved triangles with the apices at the lip. The triangular is a peculiar form in that always three parallel lines compose the left side of it and the right side and the rest of the triangles are composed of from seven to nine parallel lines that extend from the base to the innermost of engraved lines on the left side. The base of these triangles is usually an incised, engraved or grooved line that parallels the lip. This type of decoration consistently appears on the vertical necks of small wide mouthed jars (see Plate XII, figure 5). A variant of this type may be seen in the design whereby the inverted triangular blank space of the former type is filled in by cross-hatching, other features being the same. Another type of triangular design is seen in triangles filled with cross-hatching and the apices pointing away from the base. (See Plate XII, figure 4). An entirely different design composed of parallel zig-zag engraving was found on the rim of a bowl. The final type of engraved design appears to be three or four vertical or nearly vertical parallel lines on the rim of vertical sided bowls which usually has a flange or stop or groove separating





the curved basal portion from the vertical side.

Shapes also show more variation than formerly. New shapes previously mentioned are the bowls with basal flange and the one with engraved decoration and umbo. Olla show great range there being three with a flaring neck at right angles to the globular body (six), shapely outcurving rimmed wide mouthed jars and one with a vertical tapering neck and small mouth (quite similar to a bottle). The outflaring outcurved rim bowls are the most common (thirty-four). Also, the same shape appears but with an over-hanging lip. One recurved rimmed bowl occurred, one hemispherical bowl straight outflaring, twelve low neck bowls, one globular body seed bowl, and one hundred and twenty-six moljacoto and engraved bases of vessels when found flat or slightly convex. Also, parts of two effigy bowls with model human face just below the lip were found.

Plain Ware. The plain ware is much the same as it has been previously described at other sites. However, one difference and a few new vessel forms were found. Most noticeable is that many rims of flaring mouthed olla with the neck at right angles to the body were found (eighteen). Outcurving rim and straight flaring bowls (sixteen) are still common. One recurved rim bowl sherd was found as was part of one hemispherical bowl and flat seed bowl. Bases as previously mentioned are flat or slightly concave (twenty-three). However, new to the assemblage of shapes are outflaring round necked wide mouthed ollas (two), outflaring bowls with a folded over lip (five), plate-like shapes having a straight outslipping rim to a small flat center (eight) and plates have a rather saucer-shape (two). Also found were two horizontal flat large flanges which had extended out from the lip, I believe, of a bowl (not dissimilar to the tail portion on middle Mississippi effigy jars).





Brushed Ware. It was much the same though there does seem a tendency for brushing to be decorative technique rather than surface finish. Vertical brushing on the outflowing rim (occasionally with horizontal brushing on the body) (eight) and horizontal brushing on vertical rims (six) are common. Straight rimmed outflowing bowls with horizontal brushing are common (fifteen) and occasionally vertical or slightly at angle to vertical straight rimmed bowls are found (four). Hemispherical bowls are found. Perhaps the most interesting feature about these is that it appears that stirring handles occur over the lip.

Trade Sherds.

1. Fine Paste Red Ware. Huasteca III, IV, V and VI.
2. Sherd similar to Huasteca black-on-white (?).

Huasteca VI.

3. Sherd similar to Huasteca brown-on-buff. Huasteca VI.

Molcajetes. This form has small temper and medium consistency. The hardness is about 3.5. The surfaces are smoothed or polished. Very rarely they are polished red or polished black. Incisions in the bowl are of four varieties:

1. Incisions that radiate from the center like spokes.
2. Incisions that are concentric circles.
3. Incisions that divide the base into four quadrants, with parallel incisions in each quadrant that are at right angles to those in the adjoining quadrants.
4. Incisions very similar to type (3) except that no lines divide the sets of parallel lines into quadrants.

Vessel forms indicate hemispherical bowls and recurved





rim bowls. Feet are most often solid and thimble-like, large conical and hollow conical. One large bulbous foot was found along with one inverted cone with a center at its top.

### Ceremonial Objects

The figurines of this site were on the surface. These figurines consist of ten heads, of which nine are mold-made, and numerous modeled body fragments.

1. Four rectangular mold-made heads lay on the surface. (Armillas stated that this type is prevalent in late Teotihuacan times.) (See Plate XIII, figure 3.)

2. One large portrait type,<sup>33</sup> identical to those found in the Huasteca during period IV and in Middle Teotihuacan times, was discovered on the surface of one site. (See Plate XIII, figure 4.)

3. A mold-made jaguar-head effigy was found near the forermentioned head. (See Plate XIII, figure 1.)

4. The round mold-made heads having very indistinct facial characteristics, complete the list. (See Plate XIII, figures 5 and 6.) I know of no comparable types in Mexico. As to parts of bodies all are hand modeled and reveal that the figures had collars and arm bands. A few legs indicate that at least some of them were seated cross-legged figures.

### Miscellaneous Clay Objects

1. Clay pottery discs with a hole in the center are fairly common. (See Plate XIV, figure 4.)

2. A cylindrical clay flute with holes pierced on one side was discovered. (See Plate XIV, figure 2.)

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<sup>33</sup>Ekholm, op. cit., p. 44, Figure 4.



## PLATE XIII



1.



2.



3.



4.

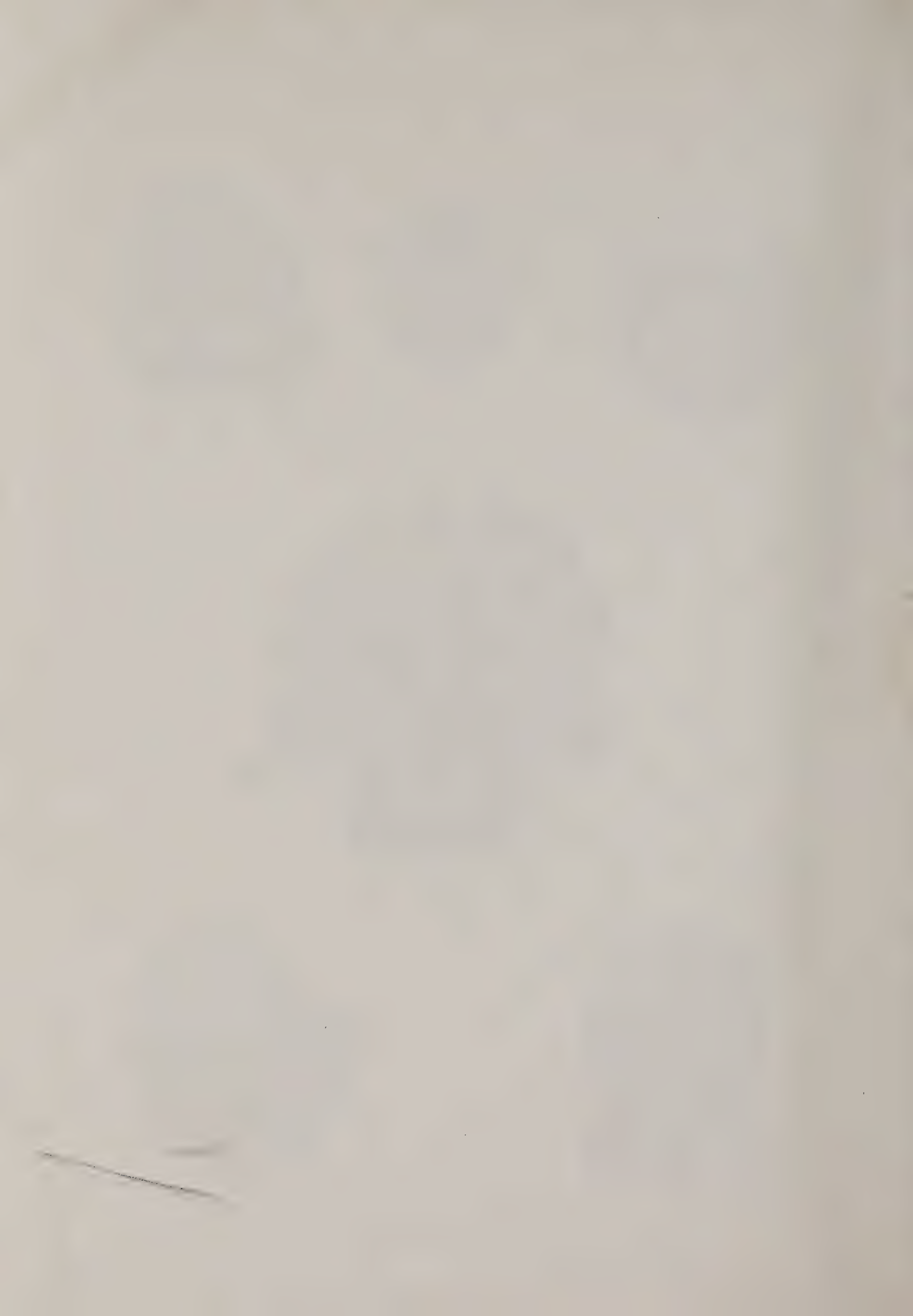


5.



6.





were discovered. They appear to be cores with secondary retouching on one end forming a very dull point. One small flake obsidian knife, rhombohedral in shape, was found (Plate XVII, figure 12). The projectile points are of six main types. One type has a flaring stem, a poorly defined shoulder, and convex sides (Plate XVII, figure 4). The specimens are about two inches long and three-fourths inches wide. Present also are the triangular (Plate XVII, figure 1), round based (Plate XVI, figures 2 and 3), and stemmed points (Plate XVII, figures 4 and 8) which are characteristic of the Abasco complex. The other two styles are those large triangular and large round based types prevalent in the Repelo complex (Plate XVII, figures 5 and 6).

#### Tm<sup>C</sup> 88 - Cerro Refugio

The Cerro Refugio is situated about four miles west of the town of Esalabones just south of the Canyon Yucato. The ruin is on top of mountains and relatively free of vegetation. It consists of about fifty round stone house platforms and possibly three stone pyramids. The latter are situated in the western portion of this plateau and appear to be the southern edge of a rectangular plaza.

The house platforms in the ruin though round in outline are somewhat different from those in the other ruins in that the walls, instead of being composed of masonry are composed of boulders and secondly, no stairs were observed. Both factors of course may be due to geological structure of the mountain for it appears to be of volcanic origin and sedimentary strata from which slabs could have been obtained are not observed by our party.

Since the vegetation was not thick it was possible to





obtain an adequate sample from a surface collection. Also, inside one house platform two whole outflaring outcurved rimmed casquellas were found. The casquellas were set into the floor and the uppermost was inverted directly on top of the second. Part of other three vessels were also found. One was a flaring sided bowl of the brushed ware, while the other two were red ware pieces. One was part of the neck of a small mouthed jar and the other appears to have been an outflaring rimmed bowl with hollow conical feet. The dominant ware type appears to be the Polished Red Ware. Three types of projectile points were found: one is a large leafed shaped blade with a rounded base; the second is a leafed shaped blade with a square base; while the third type appears as a leafed shaped blade with a straight stem.

#### Tm<sup>C</sup>90 - Monte Nudo

This ruin is situated on a rocky barren hill about three miles east of Pueblito and at the junction of the trail from Pueblito to Eslebones and Pueblito to Tripones. It would appear that the hill, almost without vegetation had undergone considerable erosion. The ruin consists of about twelve round stone house platforms with walls of masonry. A surface collection was possible though the sherds (like the ruin) had undergone considerable erosion. The thirty-seven sherds collected appear to be plain ware (polishing or paint may have been eroded). One sherd had a large solid conical foot, four appeared to be brushed ware, two appear to be polished plain, and one is polished black ware.

#### Tm<sup>C</sup>82 - Diablo Ruin

This ruin is situated on a small plain just west of the bed of the Diablo arroyo in the Canyon Diablo and is just west of the place where the trail from Los Angeles to Pueblito leaves



the river bed. One circle of boulders was observed and material was found in all parts of the plain.

The materials show some interesting deviations from those of the other sites. The brushed ware appear to be thinner and of a better paste than at the other sites; polished ware and plain ware are generally the same. Part of one bulbous foot was found and part of one molcajete with a zig-zag interior incision are, of course, different. Also a few plain sherds appear to be wheel made and seem to have a band of glaze on the interior rim though the paste and surface finish are quite similar to Pueblito plain ware. Whether these glazed sherds and wheel made sherds are modern or protohistoric Spanish and possibly contemporaries with the Indian materials is an interesting problem which only excavation can adequately solve. The projectile points are equally different from the others found in the Pueblito cultures, but are very similar to the Abasco complex points. Two round based triangle body points were found, one equilateral triangle point and one small triangle bodied straight stemmed point was found.

#### Tm<sup>C</sup> 65 - Casquellas

The ruin called Casquellas is composed of about four round stone house platforms and a stone wall terrace connecting them and was found in the Canyon Casquellas between ruins Tm<sup>C</sup> 73 and Tm<sup>C</sup> 75.

Only six body sherds were found, four were plain ware and two were brushed ware.

#### Other ruins

Other ruins in the Sierra de Tamaulipas were of course heard of but lack of time, money and equipment prevented visiting them. However, for future workers in the area I will give their





locations, names and their importance according to my informants.

Ruin Viberas is situated about ten kilometers north of Ruin La Salta and is on a hill just east of the Canyon Casquellas. My informants told me that it was very large (the equal of Pueblito) although covered by vegetation.

Ruin Las Palmas is situated about fifteen or twenty kilometers north of the ruins La Salta. Evidently of medium size. Also, covered with vegetation.

Mission de los Indios is a ruin that consists of one large rectangular pyramid and is about six kilometers north of Piedras Negras and six kilometers southwest of Im 73. It is very difficult to find and is covered with dense vegetation. (We tried for six hours to find it.)

Ruins de Canyon Naranjo is a small ruin situated about ten kilometers north of Pueblito and west of the Canyon Diablo.

Ruins of Canyon des Tripones is about twenty-five kilometers northeast of Pueblito. Evidently it is a large ruin and clean of vegetation. One of my guides maintained that it is one of the largest group of ruins in the whole area.

#### Cultural Relationships and Temporal Position of the Pueblito Complex

In the following section the objects indicative of culture contact, trade, or diffusion shall be briefly described in the Sierra de Tamaulipas. Finally, on the basis of these facts, the Pueblito complex will be correlated with the chronologies of other areas.

Culture relationships of the Pueblito complex are best shown by some of the projectile points and the figurines. The figurines resemble those of the manifestations to the south of the Sierra de Tamaulipas while the projectile points seem to be





similar to ones found in culture complexes to the north.

At Tm<sup>R</sup>33, a site having only early Pueblito pottery, two points were found that indicate northern affiliations. One point is of the Repole Round Based variety while the other is of the culturally related Repole Triangular type. This would suggest that the Period I, Pueblito complex was in contact with the Repole complex to the north. At Pueblito, Tm<sup>R</sup>6, five points were found that resemble types to the north. One is the Repole Triangular type while the other is Repole Round Based type. Both belong to the Repole complex. Two others are of the Tortugas triangular type of the Abasco complex. The final point is completely different from any other found in Northern Mexico. This, found at Pueblito, has an equilateral triangular body and a very short bifurcated stem. The nearest analogies to this type that are known are to be found in the sites of the Round Rock culture of central Texas. The final group of points were found at Tm<sup>R</sup>32 a late Pueblito site and all belong to the Abasco complex. Two of them are Abasco Round base while the third is Tortugas Triangular.

The ten figurines found in the Pueblito materials can either be compared with those of the valley of Mexico or the Huastec. Eight of these figurines were found on the surface. A modeled head of undetermined type was found in the excavation of the earlier levels at the Cerro de Guadeloupe ruin. This type generally appears in the Huasteca before Period IV. A mold-made, triangular-headed type was uncovered in an excavation of the late ceramic periods at Los Tanques Tm<sup>R</sup>73. This head closely resembles ones found by Ekholm in Period IV and V levels at Panuco.<sup>39</sup> All the rest have been previously described and were collected from

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<sup>39</sup>Ekholm, op. cit., p. 449, figures c, d, f, and g.





from the Pueblito Ruin Tm<sup>R</sup>6. For the most part they belong to Huastec IV and late III or in the Valley of Mexico to the middle and late parts of the Tectimucan florescence.

Now let us recall the stratigraphy in the Canyon Diablo caves. The Los Angeles complex was later than the Diablo complex and had projectile points of a type most often found on Huasteca VI sites. Thus it would appear that the Los Angeles complex came after the Pueblito complex. Also, the Diablo complex, without pottery and with artifacts distinctive from those of the neighboring Pueblito ruins, was assigned to a period earlier than the Pueblito complex. Thus the sequence of culture in the Sierra de Tanculipas appears to be going from earliest to later: the Diablo complex, Pueblito I, Pueblito II, Pueblito III, the Los Angeles complex.

To the north the Pueblito I appears to be in part contemporaneous with the Hapelo complex as attested by the Hapelo points at the early Pueblito ruins on the Cerro Refugio - Tm<sup>S</sup>88. The late Pueblito materials appear in part to have been contemporaneous with the Abasco complex as indicated by Abasco points on the late Pueblito ruin in the Canyon Diablo, Tm<sup>R</sup>82.

To the south the early Pueblito Period may be tentatively assigned as contemporaneous with Huastec III on the basis of the single modeled figurine found at Tm<sup>R</sup>86, the ruin on the Cerro de Guadeloupe. The latest Pueblito Period can be correlated with Huasteca IV or early V on the basis of the resemblance of the mold-made head found in the upper levels of Tm<sup>R</sup>79, La Salta ruin, to those of Ekholm. The figurine heads from Pueblito confirm this relative dating in that all resemble materials from the Huasteca of either period III or IV.

The following table will best summarize these correlations





CORRELATION OF SEQUENCE OF CULTURE IN SIERRA DE TAMAULIPAS  
WITH THAT OF THE HUASTECA AND THE VALLEY OF MEXICO

### Summary of the Possible Outlets

A summary of the Pueblite culture is necessarily of two parts. One part must be a summary of the characteristics of each of Pueblite periods while the other must be a brief outline of the total material culture of the Pueblite complex as it is now known. The following summary is presented in outline form and, of course, will repeat much that has been previously mentioned.





### Pueblite, Period I.

1. Red wares dominant.
2. Molcajete feet usually solid, large and conical.
3. Small thimble-like solid molcajete feet occur but are rare.
4. Hemispherical bowls are dominant over incurved rim bowls.
5. Handmade figurines occur.
6. Repels projectile points occur.
7. House usually is without steps.
8. Ollas with vertical neck are absent.
9. No engraved chords of triangular design occur.

### Pueblite, Period II.

1. Red wares decrease but still occur.
2. Solid conical feet occur.
3. Hollow conical feet occur.
4. Thimble-like solid feet are dominant.
5. Hemispherical bowls and incurved rim bowls appear in about equal amounts.
6. Mold-made figurines occur (7).
7. Houses appear with or without steps.
8. Ollas with vertical necks appear.
9. Engraved decoration still very rare.

### Pueblite, Period III.

1. No red wares appear.
2. Polished plain wares are dominant.
3. Hollow feet dominant while solid conical ones are absent.
4. Thimble-like feet occur rare.
5. Incurved rim bowls are dominant over hemispherical bowls.



6. Mold-made figurines occur.

7. Houses usually have steep.

8. Ollas with necks occur.

9. Ollas with outcurving rim and a globular body separated from the neck by an incised line or groove and having engraved designs on the neck.

10. Engraved designs are abundant.

The following table, combining the ceramic stratigraphy of all sites, graphically indicates the ceramic trends and variations which are the basis for my period delineations.

TABLE 10

THE CERAMIC TRENDS AND PERIODS OF THE FUEBLITO COMPLEX  
EXPRESSED IN PERCENTAGES

| Period     | Ware |       |                   |        |          |
|------------|------|-------|-------------------|--------|----------|
|            | Red  | Black | Polluted<br>Plain | White  | Engraved |
| Period III |      |       |                   |        |          |
| Tm 73      | 1    | 9     | 80                | 37-1/2 | 34       |
| Tm 72      | -    | 15    | 15                | 30     | 30       |
| Period II  |      |       |                   |        |          |
| Tm 34      | 7    | 15    | 19                | 25     | 41       |
| Tm 73      | 3    | 10    | 14                | 20     | 37       |
| Period I   |      |       |                   |        |          |
| Tm 33      | 9    | 27    | 11                | 17     | 30       |
| Tm 32      | 25   | 20    | 10                | 10     | 25       |

| Period     | Shells |    |   |    |    |    |    |
|------------|--------|----|---|----|----|----|----|
|            | ✓      | ✓  | ) | )  | ✓  | (  | ✓  |
| Period III |        |    |   |    |    |    |    |
| Tm 73      | 0      | 10 | 0 | 5  | 40 | 4  | 34 |
| Tm 72      | 5      | 12 | 2 | 5  | 35 | 10 | 28 |
| Period II  |        |    |   |    |    |    |    |
| Tm 33      | 5      | 4  | 4 | 1  | 41 | 15 | 28 |
| Tm 73      | 0      | 10 | 7 | 10 | 38 | 8  | 24 |
| Period I   |        |    |   |    |    |    |    |
| Tm 33      | 17     | 3  | 8 | 0  | 37 | 12 | 17 |





TABLE 10 (Continued)

| Period     | Feet                   |                             |                   |
|------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|
|            | Large Solid<br>Conical | Small Solid<br>Thimble-like | Hollow<br>Conical |
| Period III |                        |                             |                   |
| Tn 73      | -                      | 25                          | 75                |
| Tn 79      | -                      | 20                          | 30                |
| Period II  |                        |                             |                   |
| Tn 87      | 9                      | 30                          | 31                |
| Tn 78      | 12                     | 33                          | 50                |
| Period I   |                        |                             |                   |
| Tn 50      | 30                     | 14                          | 5                 |

The total known material culture is outlined in the following pages and has been arranged so that it will facilitate the use of this list of culture materials for comparative purposes.

#### Ecological Situation

1. The ruins are usually located upon the summits of steep sided hills. Occasionally one or two houses may be seen in the flood plains of the canyons about the hills. It would appear, however, that the majority of the houses were built upon the tops of the hills for a definite purpose, perhaps defensive.

2. In the ruins are usually one or two large circular depressions. The present inhabitants of the area refer to them as "tanques." These depressions still hold water and there can be little doubt but that they at least supplemented the water supply. Whether these reservoirs were built after the occupation of the site, or whether they are natural, and are the reason for the inhabitants' selection of the site cannot be stated at present.

3. The arrangement of the communities is governed by the geographical features of the hills, although evidence of planning





is seen. Somewhere in every ruin will be found a level portion which was used as a plaza. Surrounding this square or rectangular plaza are small pyramids or large circular masonry house platforms. Usually a large pyramid is located medially on one side of the plaza. Other structures are situated along the tops of ridges and occasionally there will be other series of house platforms on the sides of the hill, just below the top. These appear to form a terrace, and in a few cases actually do, since the houses are connected by a stone wall and the area in back of the wall is filled with dirt.

#### Architectural Features

1. Pyramids are either round or rectangular in shape. Generally speaking, the large pyramids are round and do not appear to have had masonry structures on top. Stairways are not apparent. The round pyramids by actual count are less frequent than the rectangular ones. The rectangular type is low (five to ten feet in height), steep sided, with a large flat top. Stairs are discernible on one of the shorter sides and in two cases have flanking pilasters. (In both cases this type of staircase corresponds to the late ceramic period.) The pyramids are most frequently associated with a plaza.

2. The house platforms are circular in shape (ten to twenty feet in diameter) and the sides are composed of vertical walls of masonry (with the exception of one site, Tn<sup>R</sup>38, of the early ceramic period where the walls are composed of large boulders.) The walls are from one foot to six feet in height. The top of these structures is horizontal and often will be covered by a burned clay floor, occupational debris and occasional pieces of wattle and daub. Below these top surfaces are large rocks, dirt,





and refuse, apparently used as fill. Tangent slab steps that lead from the ground to the platform. These steps are associated only with late ceramic remains.

3. Two other architectural features are present. One of these is a carecel-like structure. The body is identical to the house platforms, being about eight feet high, twenty feet in diameter, and with steep masonry walls. However, the difference lies in the staircases. A series of steps are found on opposite sides of the platform. These staircases rise parallel to the sides of the structure, and the bases of the staircases face in opposite directions. The other structure appears to have a series of slabs of rock arranged in a rectangle.

4. As a final architectural feature, there are stone walls that connect two or more house platforms that are situated at the same level on the side of a hill. These walls act as retaining walls for dirt piled against one side, thereby making terraces.

#### Utilitarian Objects

1. Metates have slightly sloping grinding surfaces about twice the length of the more sloping posterior portion. This posterior portion rises upwards at an angle of forty-five degrees to the grinding surface. On the basal side, there is a ridge on the obtuse angle. This ridge runs from side to side serving as a support and tilting the grinding surface. Looking down from above, the implement appears to be rectangular with the ends about half as long as the sides. Associated with these metates are cylindrical roller manos.

2. Mortars (called by the local inhabitants "ollas de piedra"), also appear in this region. These are made of volcanic rock and have a deep bowl-shape. The average size is about one





foot high, with the mouth diameter about the same. The thickness of the sides and bottom is about two inches. Found in the ruins are numerous bell-shaped pestles. These may have been used in the large stone mortars.

3. One triangular celt was found.

4. Four large (three inches long) oval-shaped knives were discovered. They appear to be cores with secondary retouching on one end forming a very dull point. One small flake obsidian knife, rhombohedral in shape, was found. The projectile points are of six main types. One type has a flaring stem, a poorly defined shoulder, and convex sides. The specimens are about two inches long and three-quarters inch wide. Present also are the triangular, round based, and stemmed points which are characteristic of the Abasco complex. These types, incidentally, are associated with the late Pueblito ceramic period. The other two styles are those large triangular and large round based types prevalent in the Kepelo complex. These last two were on a site of predominantly early Pueblito pottery.

#### Miscellaneous Clay Objects

1. Pottery discs with a hole in the center, made from sherds, are fairly common.

2. A cylindrical clay flute with holes pierced on one side was discovered.

3. Part of a rattle, evidently with a bulbous hollow body and a short solid stem, lay on the surface of a site.

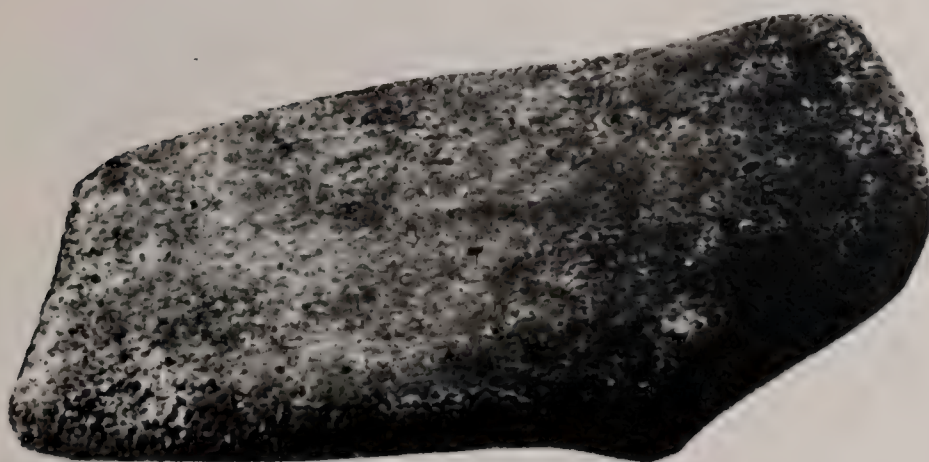
4. The function of this final group of clay artifacts is rather difficult to determine. These objects are cylindrical bodies, with one end smoothed off to a point while the other end appears to have been attached to some sort of outcurving surface. A narrow aperture runs from one end to the other. They are from three to four inches long.



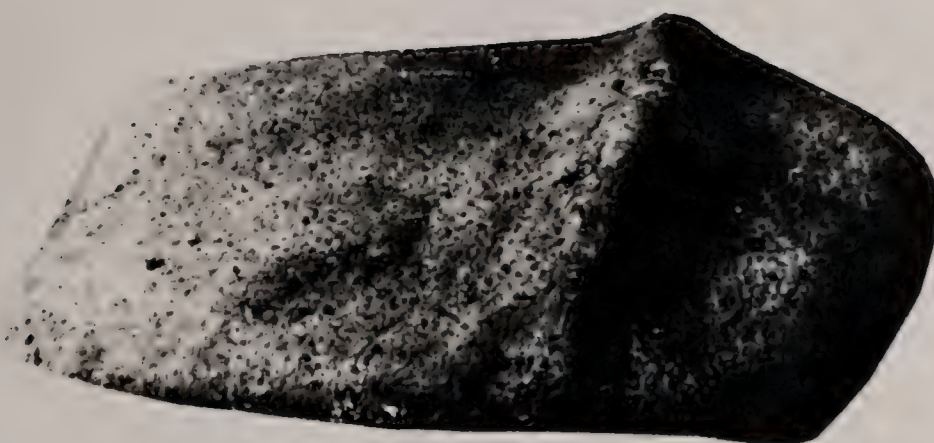


PLATE XV

PUEBLITO GRINDING TOOLS



1



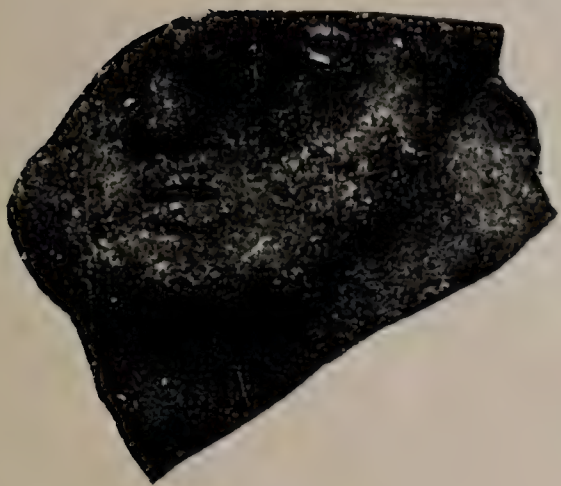
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3.



PLATE XIV  
PUEBLITO CLAY ARTIFACTS



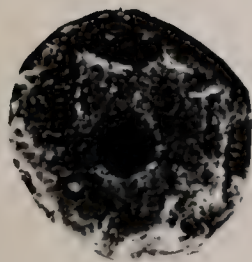
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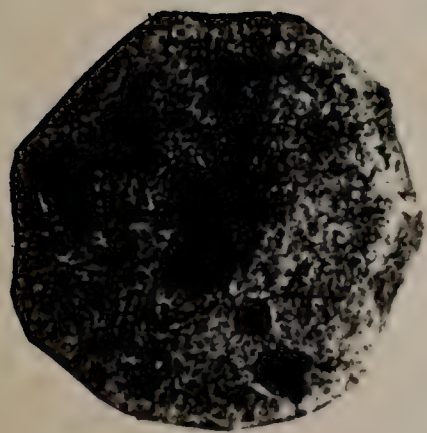
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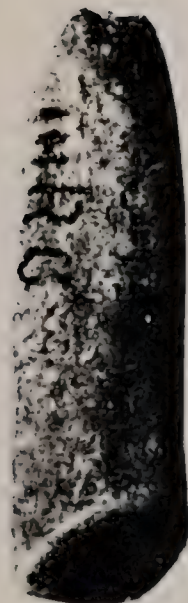
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5.



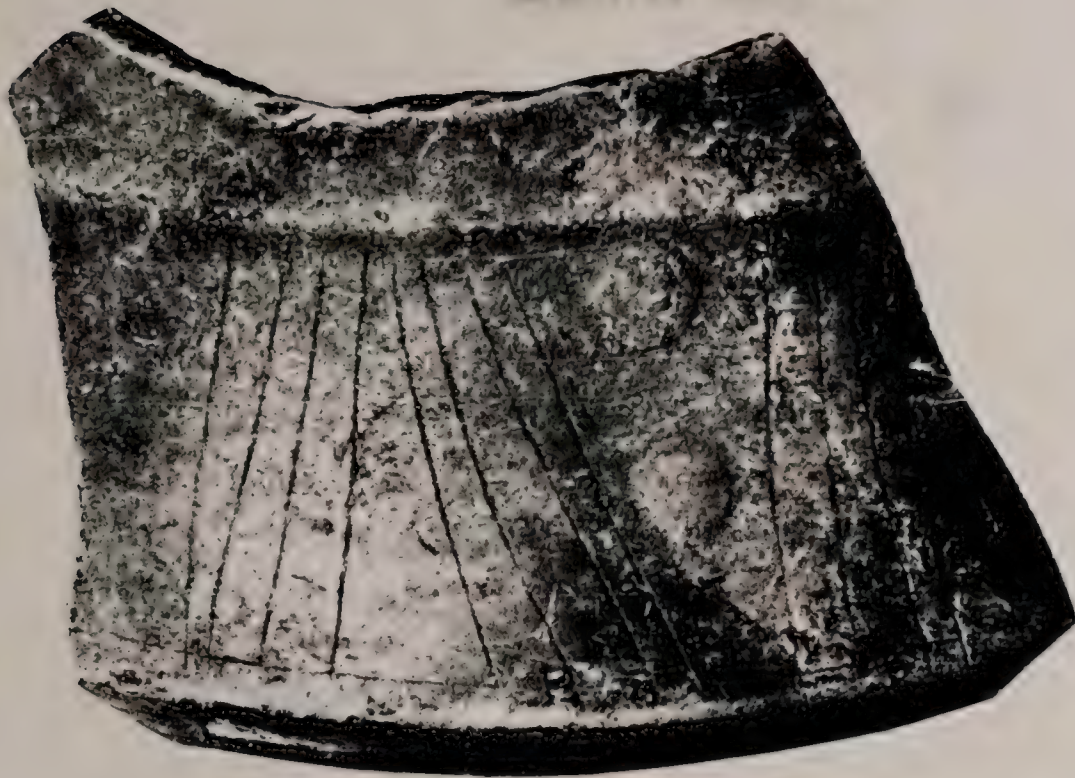
6.



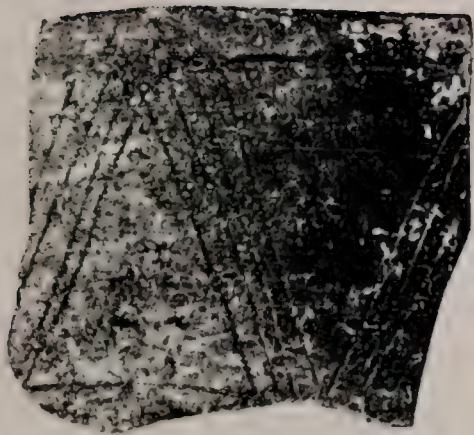
7.





PLATE XII  
ENGRAVED SHERDS

1.



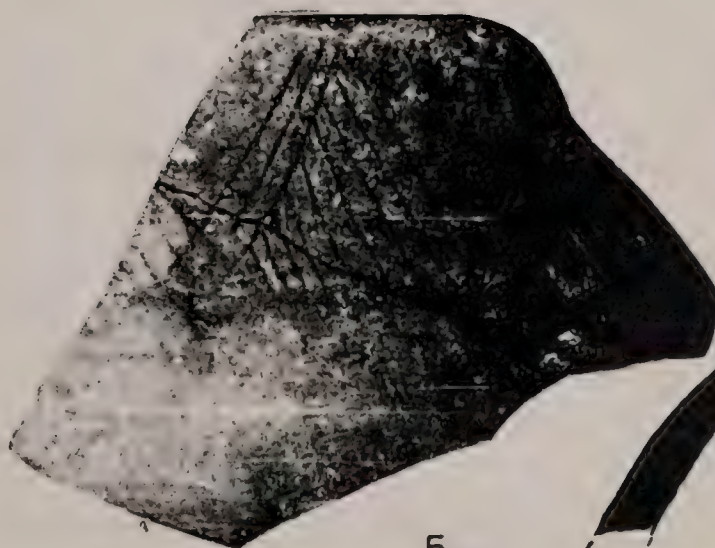
2.



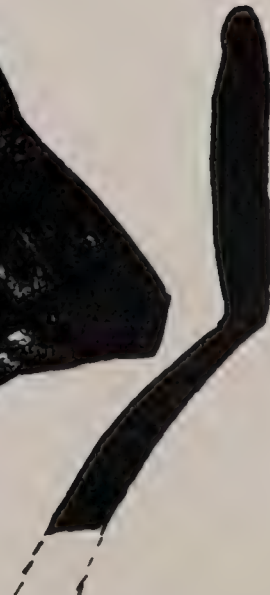
3.



4.



5.







### Ceramic assemblage

1. Brushed Ware. Previously described in the site analyses. In the earlier periods no conscious attempt is made to use this brushing as a decorative technique. It seems to be confined to the middle and late periods.

2. Plain ware. Previously described in the site analyses. It appears in the late and middle periods.

3. Polished black ware. Previously described in the site analyses. Decoration is absent on these wares except in the late ceramic period. During the final period, fine engraved lines are present. There is considerable variation in vessel form and some of these differences have temporal significance.

4. Polished Red Ware. Previously described in the site analyses. This is one of the dominant wares in the early period and decreases steadily until in the final period it is almost non-existent.

5. Engraved Polished Ware. Previously described in the site analyses.

The shapes are the same as those previously mentioned except that there is one additional shape rather difficult to determine. These vessels appear to be fat truncated cones with the mouths at the smaller end. The polished wares, though occurring in all periods, reach their greatest frequency in the final period.

6. Molcajetes. Previously described in the site analyses. Vessel forms vary in that in the early period hemispherical bowls predominate while in the late period recurved rim bowls are most frequent. The feet on these vessels also show considerable



variation in that in the early period solid, low conical feet predominate; in the middle period small, solid nubbin feet are most common; while in the last period, hollow low conical feet are dominant.

### Ceremonial Objects

The figurines of this culture for the most part were found on the surface. Unfortunately only two were unearthed in excavation. These figurines consist of ten heads of which nine are mold-made, and numerous hand modeled body fragments.

1. A modeled head of undetermined type was associated with the ceramics of the early pottery period.
2. A mold-made, triangular-headed type was uncovered in an excavation of late ceramic periods that resemble types found by Ekholm in a period V level.
3. Four rectangular mold-made heads lay on the surface. (Armillas stated that this type resemble heads prevalent in late Teotihuacan times.)
4. One large portrait type identical to those found in the Huasteca during period IV, was discovered on the surface of one site.
5. A mold-made jaguar-head effigy was found near the aforementioned head.
6. Two round, mold-made heads, having very indistinct facial characteristics, complete the list. I know of no comparable types in Mexico. As to parts of bodies, all are hand modeled and reveal that the figures had collars and arm bands. A few legs indicate that at least some of them were seated cross-legged figures.





PLATE XVI.

PUEBLITO GROUND STONE ARTIFACTS



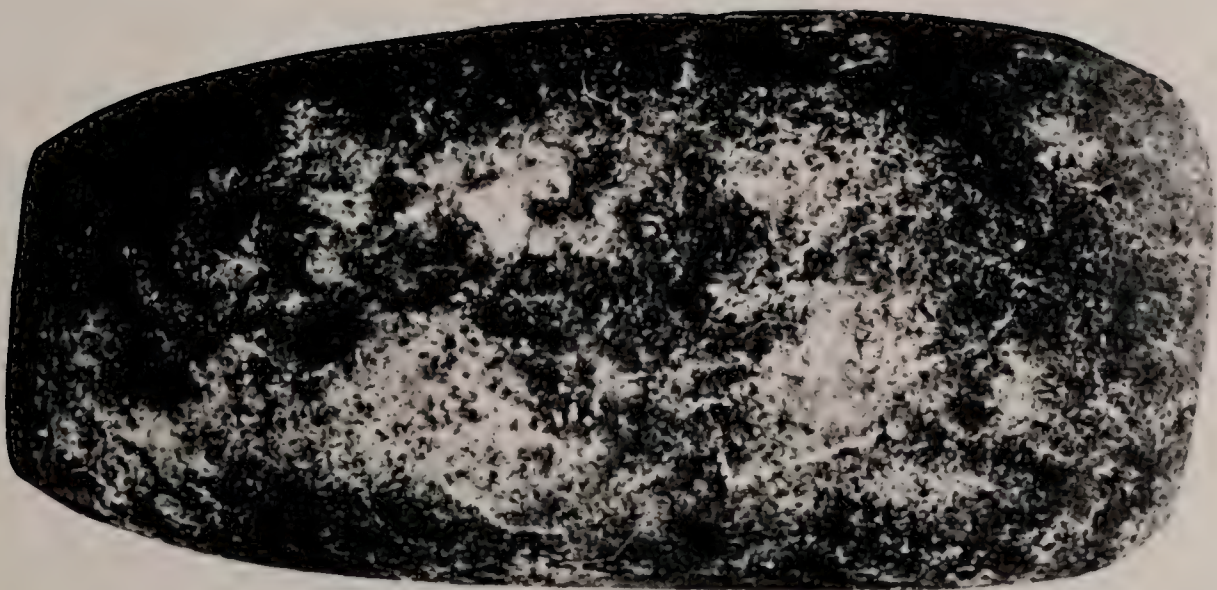
1.



2 .



3.



4.





### Conclusions

The part that the Pueblito complex played in the South-east-Mexican relationships, on the basis of present limited knowledge, seems to be of minor importance. However, there appear to be certain similarities in ceramics between the early Caddo foci and the Pueblito complex. This includes the use of the carinated vessel form (i.e., bowls having outflaring rims, outsloping sides and flat bases). In the Pueblito area this appears to be the dominant vessel form while in the Caddo area this is most often the earliest part of the sequence (in the Alto focus in Hardy and Davis incised ceramic types). A second feature is to be found in the use of fine lined engraved designs on a highly polished black surface finish. A further similarity exists in the use of the triangular engraved designs (triangular filled with cross hatching and triangular filled with lines parallel to one side of the triangle) in both the Saunders focus and Pueblito complex. A third similarity is to be found in the use of technique of decorating vessels by filling zones with opposed marks of brushing. Pueblito Brushed Ware and Hardy Incised of the Alto focus are examples of such. The final similarity is one that is rather hard to explain in words and which is rather subjective. In archaeological literature it is often expressed by the term "feel" of pottery. In reality it means the impression given by the paste of the pottery that is produced by the interrelations of the temper, the kind of clay employed, the amount of kneading of this clay, the length of time of firing of the pottery, the amount of temperature, amount of oxygen used in the fire and the surface treatment. Both Krieger and Griffin have commented on the similarity of the feel of



Caddo and Pueblito pottery (and the lack of similarity of the feel of pottery between the Caddo-Pueblito complex and that of Meso-American and Southeastern groups). Needless to say these similarities do not account for Mexican-like elements in the Southwest and the most that we can say of the Pueblito-Southeast relationship is that the ceramic similarity hints of a possible early relationship, but that the necessary proof is still lacking.





## CHAPTER IV

### THE NORTHERN COASTAL HUASTECS

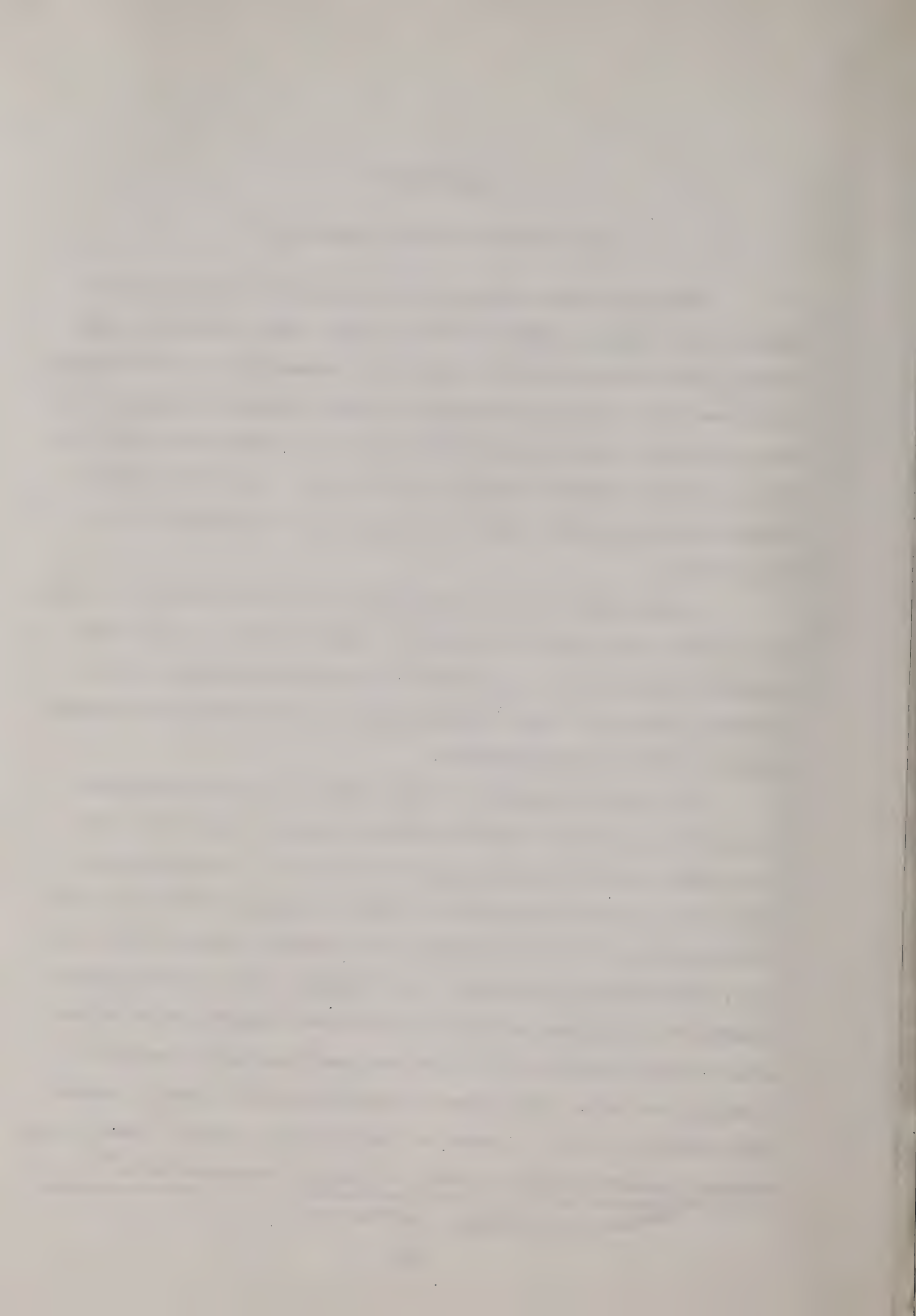
Along the Laguna Madre and in the mouth of the Soto de Marine River from La Pesca to three miles north of the San Fernando River ten Huastec camp sites were discovered. All of these sites are small and the cultural deposits usually consisted of a thin stratum of shell (from three inches to three feet thick) in which Huastec cultural remains are present. The sites are on banks next to the salt water or on islands or peninsulas (See figure 10).

Further investigation of this area by boat will, of course, reveal more sites than I was able to find on foot. Due to the physical difficulties, I was able to excavate only at La Pesca. However, erosion by wave action exposed in most cases an adequate sample of the cultural remains.

The identification of these sites as Huastec camps was based on an analysis of their material remains which were predominantly sherds of Panuco, periods V and VI. Unfortunately, many sherds had been affected by salt and water action and could not be exactly identified although the paste, thickness and vessel forms were very similar to the Huastec pottery from Panuco. However, a sufficient number of sherds were identifiable to indicate that these camps for the most part belong to Period VI, although two were first occupied during Period V times. Sherds diagnostic of Period VI were of the following types: Tancol Poly-chrome, Huastec Black-on-white, and Tancol Brown-on-White.<sup>40</sup>

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<sup>40</sup> Chopin, op. cit., pp. 350-353.





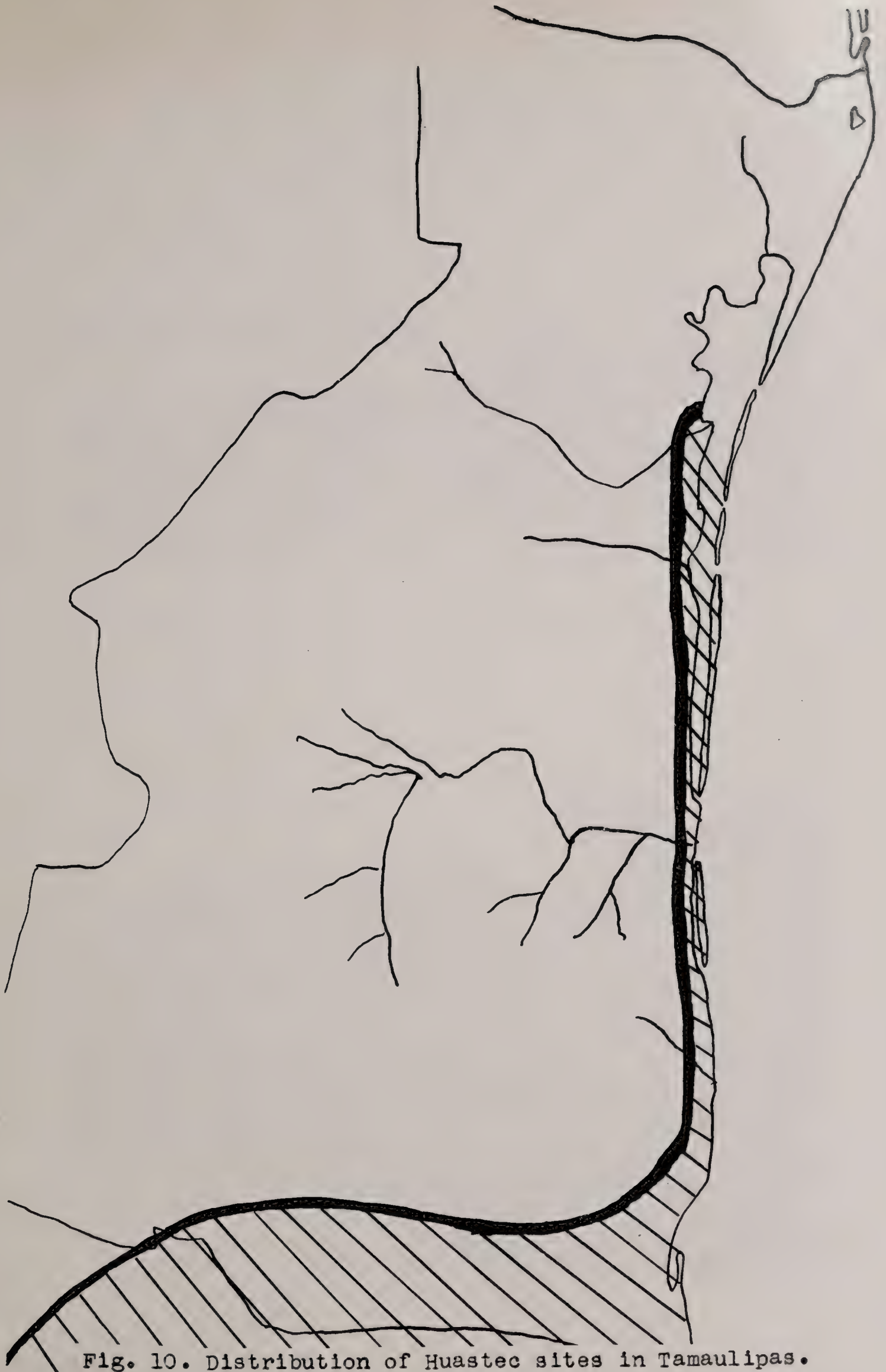


Fig. 10. Distribution of Huastec sites in Tamaulipas.



PLATE XVIII

HUASTEC CAMPS



1.



2.





These types representing Period V were: Las Flores Black-on Red, Las Flores Red-on-Buff, Las Flores Relief Ware, Las Flores Melcajete, fine paste, and Zaquil Black.<sup>41</sup> Sherds representing both periods were: Zaquil Red, Heavy Plain and Ladles.<sup>42</sup> Variations of these types also were found, as were sherds that were not of Huastec affiliations. Descriptions and a discussion of the significance of these will be presented later. Many of these identifications made have been confirmed by Dr. Ekholm and all identifications have been discussed with Roberto Pavon of Panuco, Vera Cruz.

Besides the sherds that can be identified as Huastec, other objects were found that are definitely of the same culture. These artifacts include projectile points of Ekholm's Type IV, and Type III part of a metate, scrapers, shell ink, and shell beads.

On the basis of the above facts I believe we can identify these sites as Huastec despite the fact that they are without architectural features, evidence of corn or many grinding tools, and obviously represent people dependent on a type of subsistence different from that of the Huastecs further south (hunting and food gathering, not agriculture). This being true I then believe that the objects found on these sites totally different from the Huastecs and similar to those of nearby cultures can be considered trade materials. Those being only slightly different than those of the Huastecs can be explained by the fact that the original manufacturer was either influenced by some outside source or showed considerable personal initiative.

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<sup>41</sup> Fig. 11.

<sup>42</sup> Fig. 12.





With the above points in mind, let us turn to the description of the sites.

Isla de la Piedra de Lumbre - Tm<sup>c</sup> 34

This site is on an island in the south portion of the mouth of the Seta la Marina River. The top of the island is about ten feet above sea level and is capped by three to four foot strata of shell and refuse. The fringes of the island are composed of a beach made up of broken shell. The center of the island is densely covered with trees, vines, tall grasses and weeds (see Plate XVIII, figure 2).

Since numerous sherds were found on the surface and along the beach and since the island superficially appeared to be a shell mound it seemed necessary to excavate. The purpose of the digging was to determine whether it was a natural or cultural shell heap, and if artificially built, to determine how long it had been occupied and by whom.

For this reason a fifteen foot trench five feet wide and four feet deep was placed into the side of the mound. The shell stratum pooled off in six inch levels, revealed that the shell refuse extended down about three feet. Sherds, bone and stone implements as well as a small depression filled with charcoal attested to the fact that the top of the island had been man-made. (See Plate XIX.)

An analysis of the materials revealed that the occupants had Huastec type materials and were living during Periods V and VI. Furthermore, the analysis confirmed Ekholm's work at Panuco in that pottery types of Period V lay deeper within the shell midden than did the types assigned to Period VI. However, besides the sherds definitely assignable to the Huastecs, there were a number of sherds with shape or paste suggestive of Periods V or VI,





some body sherds so badly worn as to be unidentifiable, and some few sherds different from the Huastec. It is also interesting to note that the four projectile points were found while only two hundred and sixty-eight sherds. This is a much higher proportion of projectile points than were found in the Tempiec-Panuco region. In the following description of the analysis of the materials I shall deal with them under three main heads: materials found on the surface, materials from those arbitrary six inch levels showing Period VI types and materials from the Period V levels. In each section I shall list the types of materials and describe some polychrome and aberrant sherds as well as the other artifacts.

On the surface of the island and along the beach the following were found: one incurving rim sherd of Las Flores Black-on-Red; three Huasteca Black-on-White, one with an annular base; four sherds of Tancol polychrome, one with the geometric designs of Tancol Brown-on-Red; six sherds of Tancol Brown-on-Red; seven heavy plain sherds; and three Las Flores Molcajete, fine paste. All of the designs of the Las Flores Molcajete fine paste are rather different from those of Panuco in that one outflaring bowl with an engraved design on the exterior, another has a series of parallel, engraved lines separating zig-zag engraved lines on the interior of the rim surface; another sherd with a bulbous foot has a diamond incised design on the interior and red paint on the inside. On thirty-eight other sherds the surfaces are so worn that they can be identified as Huastec only on the basis of their paste and surface finish. One of these sherds is a ring base, twenty-four pieces are part of hemispherical bowls, two are pieces of straight bowls with flaring rim, seven are parts of a vessel with a spout and four are outcurved rims of small mouthed ollas.





Twenty-one sherds are not identifiable at all. Also on the surface were parts of a metate, part of an effigy vessel and one crude small triangular point, *metate*. Triangular.

The Period VI sherds were uncovered in the upper three levels of square 23, the upper 2-1/2 levels of Square 20 and the upper level of Square 15. Only ninety-three sherds were found, forty-three being immediately identifiable as typical of Period VI. These include eleven Tequil Red sherds, fifteen Tancol Polychrome sherds, four Huastec Black-on-White, five Tancol Brown-on-Buff, eight Heavy Plain and one *inide*. Variants of the regular ceramic types include fourteen sherds from a buff-colored teacup-like vessel. The interior decoration was a single band of red paint, outlined by black lines running from the lip through the base to the opposite side of the lip. This resembles Tancol Polychrome designs but the exterior decoration is entirely different. Encircling the lip on the outside is a band of engraving in a feather design (see Plate XL, figure 1). Another sherd, similar to those just mentioned, is part of a cup-shaped vessel painted white with an exterior (3/4 inch) band painted black inside of which are engraved designs (See Plate XL, figure 3). These engraved designs are outlined by two parallel incised lines, which enclose roughly parallel zig-zag lines. Another sherd has a Huastec Black-on-White paste, but bears a single incised line on it. The final unusual sherd is Heavy Plain in surface finish and paste but bears filleted sherd different from those at Tancol (See Plate XL, figure 2). Thirty-one other sherds were found that could not be identified due to smallness of size or wear. There is also part of an elliptical stone pendant with two holes drilled in it.

The Period V sherds were uncovered in the lower six inches





of the refuse material. Immediately recognizable were: twelve sherds of Zaqul Red type, four Las Flores Black-on-Red sherds, one Las Flores Relief, one Fenucc Gray and twelve Heavy Plain sherds. At variance with the regular type was one sherd with the paste and coloring of Zaqul Red, but in the form of a small-mouthed seed bowl. Ten unidentifiable sherds were discovered, as well as part of an abrading stone and two round based projectile points similar to the Abasco Round based types (See Plate VII, figure 1).

#### The Caton Site - Tm<sup>C</sup>75

These vestiges of ancient habitation are situated on an island (or westward jutting peninsula) about one mile east of the fishing camp next to the Caton Ranch (See Figure 11). The cultural remains are in a bank about five feet above the level of the Laguna Madre. Fortunately, wave action had eaten into the bank and the refuse so that with a little travelling a cross section of part of the site could be seen. The refuse strata was about one foot thick and was composed of shell, artifacts, fish bones and charcoal. This strata extended along the bank for a distance of about one hundred yards. Difficulty in transporting labor prevented excavation, but luckily an adequate surface collection was made and a few important projectile points were dug out in making the profile.

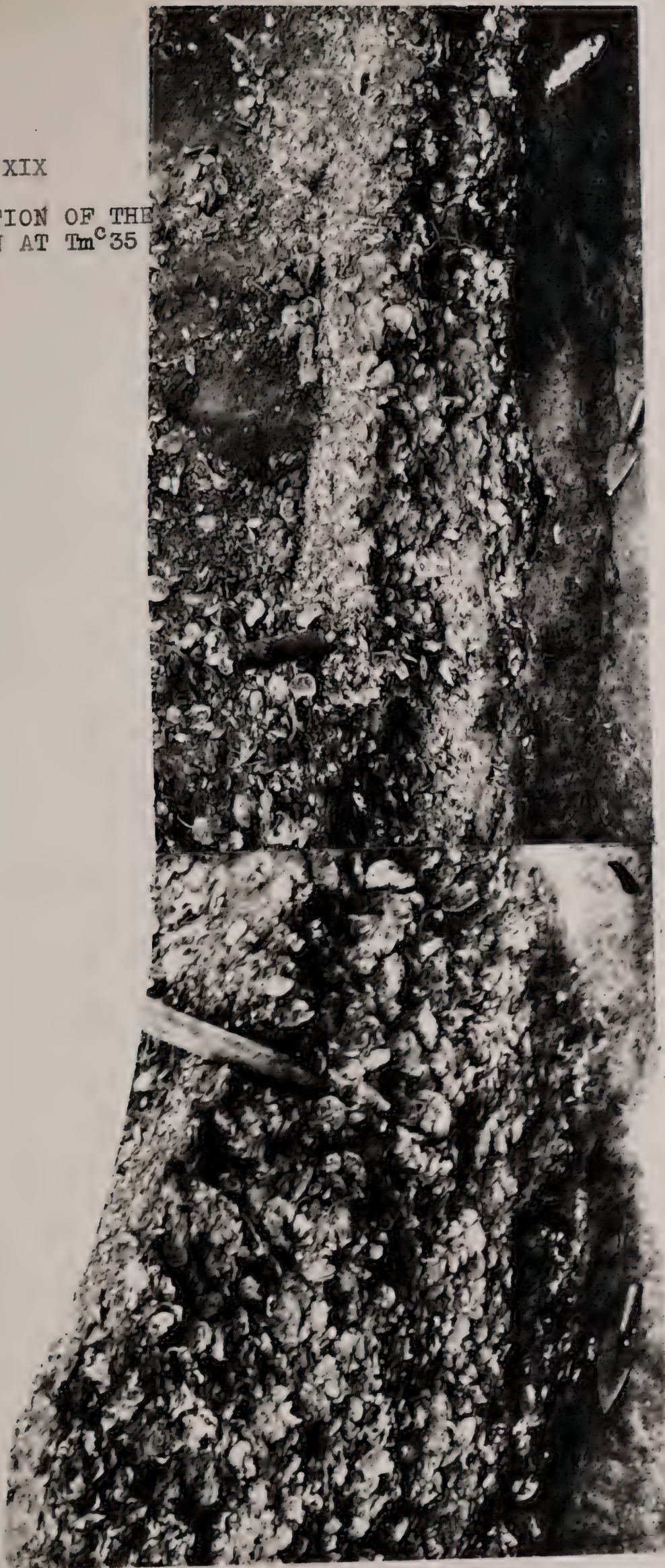
An analysis of the sherds indicated that the site was occupied during Periods V and VI. However, perhaps of greater significance are the aberrant Huastec sherds, a trade sherd, and the Nolan Beveled Stem point (diagnostic of the Clear Fork focus of Central Texas) which was dug out of the lower part of the refuse while profiling.





## PLATE XIX

CROSS SECTION OF THE  
EXCAVATION AT Tm<sup>c</sup>35







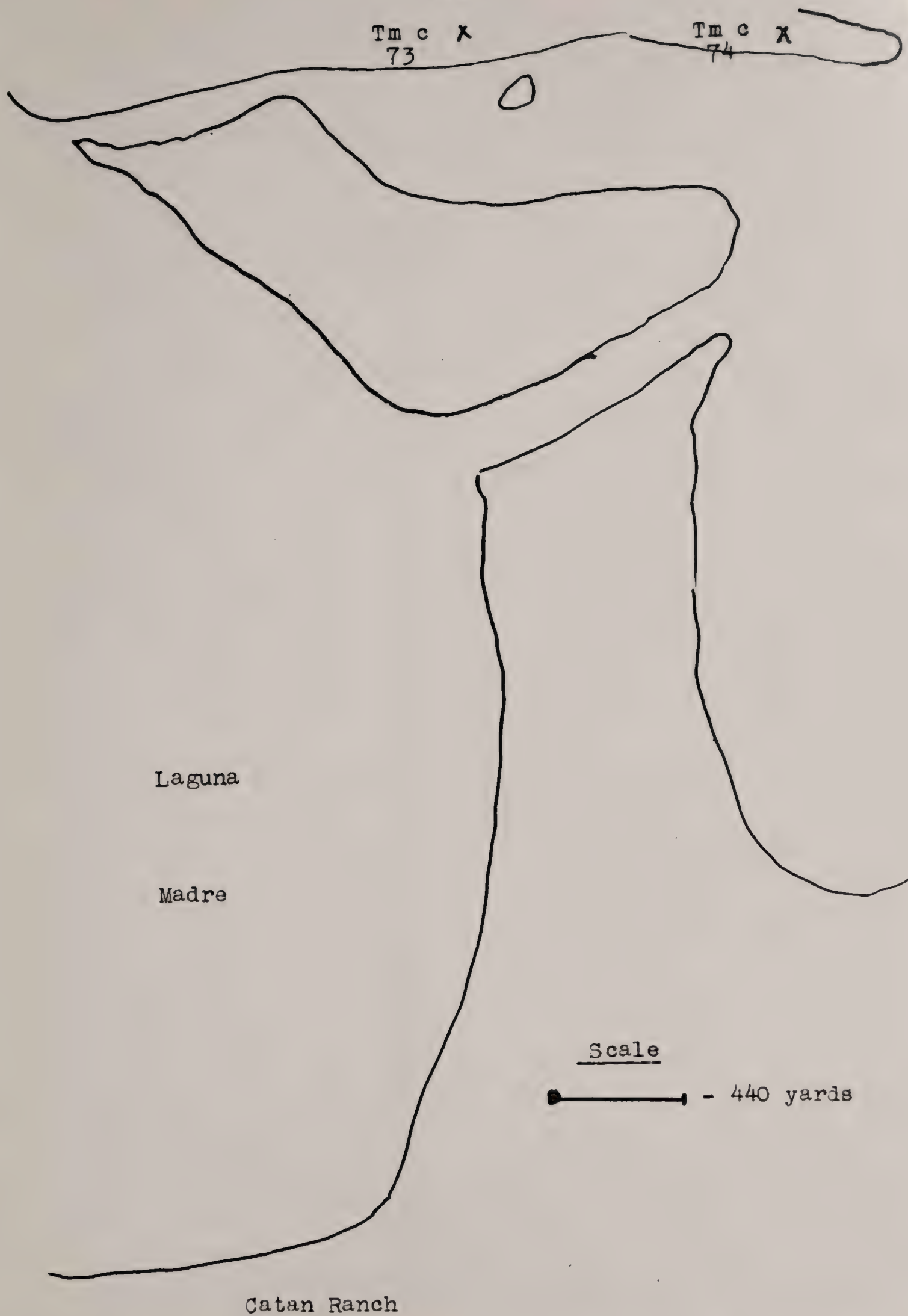
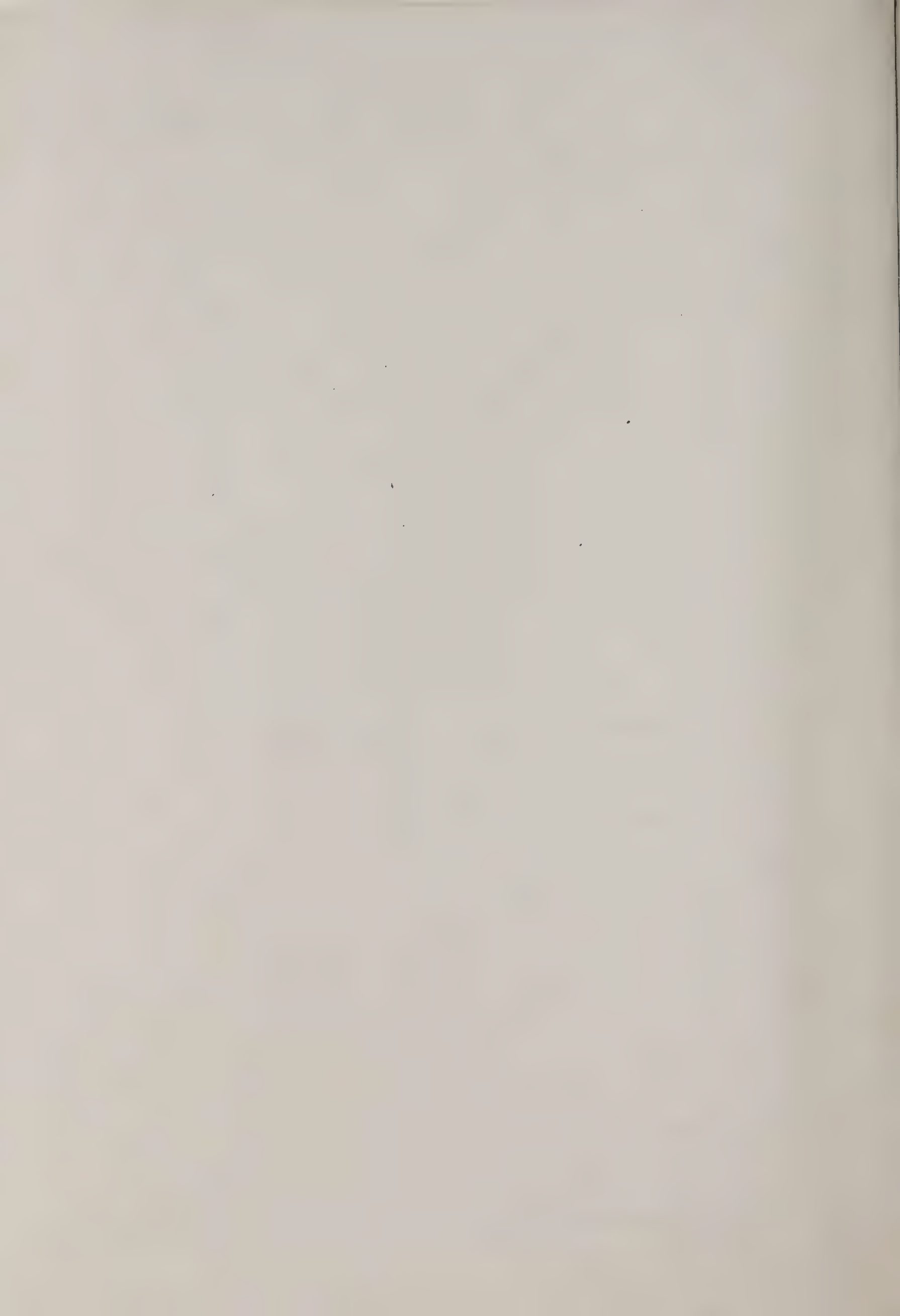


Fig. 11. Sketch map of the Huastec sites near the Catan Ranch.





Sherds that could be identified as Huastec, Period V, included seven Las Flores Molcajete fine paste, one Las Flores Red-on-Buff, one Pance Gray with a fillete, and three sets of fragments having Period V shapes. These were three rim sherds from a small mouthed olla with an everted lip, two sherds of a small globular bodied olla with a recurving rim and two sherds of a flat bottomed vessel.

Only twelve sherds could be definitely assigned to Period VI and these included eight Huastec Black-on-White, one Tancol Brown-on-Buff, two Tancol Polychrome and one ring base of a Heavy Plain sherd.

A number of sherds belonged to either or both Period V or VI. These included eighteen sherds of Zaquill Red, twenty-five of Heavy Plain, two rimsherds of hemispherical bowls, two outflaring rims, two outslipping rims and parts of two vertical olla necks.

Of particular significance were the aberrant sherds. One of these sherds has a vertical orange-painted neck at right angles to a globular body painted black. Du Solier and Wagner identified this sherd as Totonac and identical to one found on the Isla de Sacrificios, Vera Cruz. Two other sherds are rim sherds of a low bowl or plate; one sherd is crenelated. The paste of these two sherds is more porous than that of Huastec pottery of Period V and VI and the decoration is unknown in the Huastecs and, I believe, Mexico. It is interesting to note that the nearest culture which used this decorative motif was the Sanluis Focus of East Texas. Two other sherds have engraving on them and both have the paste of Tancol Polychrome. One design is upon the rim of an outflaring bowl and shows two parallel zig-zag engraved lines inside of two engraved lines that parallel the lip (See Plate IV, Figure 4). The second design is also on an outflowing rim of a bowl; it is





composed of two engraved lines paralleling the exterior of the lip, with a series of vertical engraved lines underneath them. Another sherd is heavy flint ware with a peculiar thumb impression on an applique strip. The final sherd is part of a molcajete which has a solid spike foot and a peculiar rough diamond incising on the base of the interior.

The inventory of the other artifacts from the site shows some interesting discrepancies from the regular Huastec pattern. However, three projectile points are of the Tortugas triangular type or, in Ekholm's terminology, the Huastec Type 4 variety (see Plate XXI, figures 3 and 4). The other points do not agree. Two points are the Abasco, round based type (see Plate XII, figure 1); one point is the Brownsville Convex type (Plate XXI, figures 5, 6, and 7) which are affiliates with the Abasco and Brownsville complexes respectively. The others have wider affiliations. One specimen is the basal end of a straight wide-stemmed point with a long tapering body. The stem is peculiar in that the edges are bevelled and the base thinned. The flint type is peculiar in that it greatly resembles that of the Abilene region. Both in form and type of flint, this point appears to be a trade point from the Clear Fork focus of Central Texas, Nolan Beveled stem type (Plate XXI, figure 10). The other point is very thin, delicately chipped and has slightly convex edges, a sharp tapering point and a notched concave base. The nearest analogy to this type of point is in East Texas in the Haley and Sender's collection (Plate XXI, figure 11). Another point is one inch long and one-half inch wide, with tapering convex edges, a concave base and small, well defined side notches. It appears very similar to the Keechi Concave type of Central Texas (Plate XVI, figure 12). Other artifacts in this complex include a split bone and part of





an abrading stone, obsidian chips and a thumb-nail scraper. One hundred and thirty-two sherds are unidentified.

It appears that this site represents a Huastec camp which had wide contacts with the Abasco complex, Brownsville complex, Clear Fork focus and possibly West Texas foci. This site is a significant one for the solution of our problems.

#### The Peninsula Site - Tm<sup>C</sup>74

About three hundred yards south of the Gater site is a Huastec site of only Period VI affiliation. This site is on a peninsula of the same island as Tm<sup>C</sup>73 (see Figure 11). Lack of materials between the two sites justify its recognition as a separate camp. Unfortunately, the peninsula has undergone considerable erosion and the shell-laden refuse on it is, at present, only three inches thick.

Most of the sherds indicate Period VI. Two shers are from Period VI Molcajates, two are Huastec Black-on-white, three are Tancol Brown-on-buff, five are Zaguil Red, two belong to the Tancol Polychrome type while twenty are Heavy Plain. Banded sherds appear to have vessel forms of Period VI and are: three outcurved rim of small mouthed oiles, seven seed bowls and one incurved rim bowl. Fifty-eight sherds defied typology.

Aberrant sherds include one modern sherd wheel made with a red glaze, one polished black sherd with a sandy paste, and one sherd with a red background, Zaguil Red paste, but having a negative geometric design. The projectile point present was equally strange in that it had a trianguloid body with convex edges, side notches and a convex base. It was about two inches long and 3/4 inches wide. It is like no other point I have seen in this area or in Texas and bears closest resemblance to the Keechi Convex of Central Texas in spite of the fact that it is larger than most





of that type. Also found was one winged drill which is usually unknown in Mexico and prehistorically manufactured only in North and East Texas (see Plate XVI, figure 13).

As may be seen from the projectile points of this site, again we have a northern Huastec camp which appeared to have been in contact with central or northern Texas.

#### Arroyo Lavadores Site - Tm<sup>c</sup>72

On a small hillock north of the confluence of the Arroyo Lavadores with the Laguna Madre was discovered Tm<sup>c</sup>72 (See Figure 12). The erosion of the sides of the hill gave a good cross section and a two inch cultural (dark charcoal-impregnated) strata was observed (See Plate XVIII, figure 1). Ceramics indicate that the site was predominantly Period VI although two sherds of the Las Flores molcajete, fine paste, of Period V were picked up. The Period VI sherds include ten Squill Red sherds, ten Huastec Black-on-White potsherds, one Tancol Brown-on-Buff and four Heavy plain. Eroded sherds, thirty-eight in number, resembling Tancol polychrome or Huasteca Black-on-White paste were also discovered. Four aberrant sherds had a white painted surface but wide crude molcajete incising on their interiors. Projectile points included three Rio Grande Concave (Plate XII, figures 7 and 8), and three Matamoros Triangular. One drill with a small rectangular base (1/2 inch by 3/4 inch) and a short (1/2 inch) point was found that is considered completely foreign to this area (Plate XVI, figure 14). Drills resembling this type are to be found in north and east Texas.

#### East Laguna Leona Site-Tm<sup>c</sup>71

This site is situated in a lake next to the Laguna Madre just about two miles east-north-east from Lavadores and one-half



mile directly north of the Arroyo Levadores site (see Figure 13). It is on a peninsula pointing westward and bisecting the Laguna de Santa Rosa. The site is quite extensive and from the banks the refuse appears to be about eight inches to one foot in thickness. This strata is composed mainly of shell in which are interspersed Huastec sherds. Also observed were two burials that had been washed out of the bank. Leg bone and skull fragments of one were still in place and indicated possibly a flexed burial position. In spite of the extensive area of refuse not a great deal of material was found. This was explained by my guide as being due to the washing in the area that had occurred during the last tornado.

Analysis of the materials revealed these to be Period VI and possibly early historic. The Period VI types were: eight Huastec Black-on-White with a curvilinear design,<sup>44</sup> two Tancol Brown-on-buff, nineteen Zaquil Red, one Tancol Polychrome, and six Heavy Plain. Sherds ~~attributed~~ to the Huastec and possibly historic included two sherds with a red slip and polish but having a poorer paste than Zaquil Red or other Huastec V and VI types, six sherds of one vessel that appeared to have been wheel made which have a white painted surface with straight paint decorative lines, and numerous other wheel made sherds. Both types are similar to Mission pottery of Texas at Fortido.<sup>45</sup> Thirty-nine unidentified sherds were collected. Projectile points consisted of two Brownsville concave types, one Matamoros triangular and one small (one inch long) narrow (one-half inch) side notched point with a concave base. This latter point resembles Hutto convex type of Central Texas. One bone awl was also found.

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<sup>44</sup>Ekholm, *op. cit.*, Figure 27.

<sup>45</sup>*Ibid.*, p. 368.





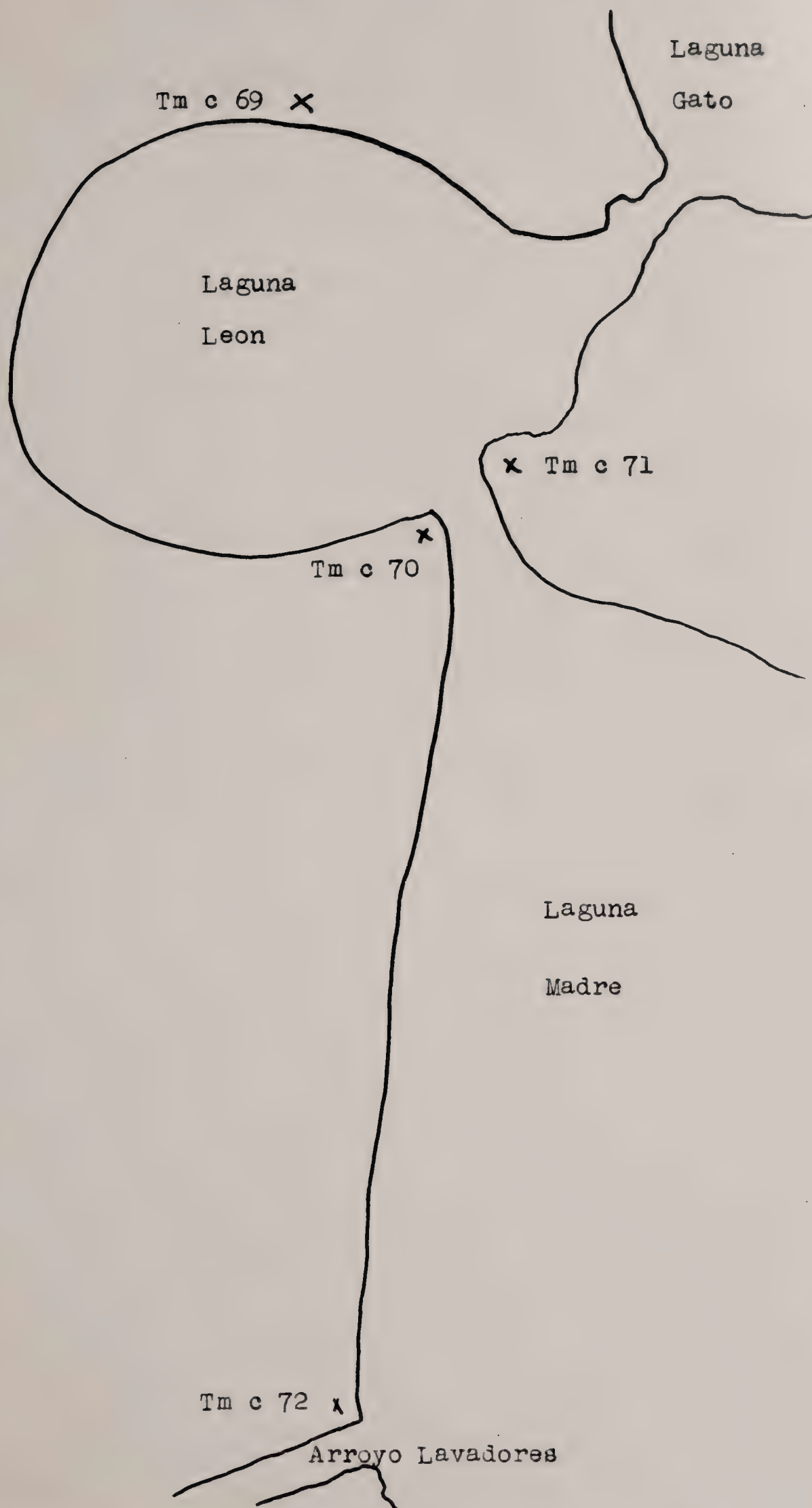


Fig. 12. Sketch map of the Huastec sites near Lavadores





East Laguna Lake Site - Tn<sup>C</sup>70

This Huastec camp was just across the Laguna Lake from Tn<sup>C</sup>71. Much of the site had been eroded out (see Figure 12). A two inch dark strata at the top of a steep bank evidenced what was left. Due to the position of the strata it was only possible to obtain sherds that had been eroded out of the bank. These were quite worn and decoration almost obliterated. Only two sherds could be identified as Zaquil Red while three rim sherds of out-flaring rimmed straight necked bottles and two rims of outflowing, outslipping bowls appeared to be Period VI sherds. Fifteen other sherds appeared, two of which had a white surface and paste similar to Huastec Black-on-White. Three Brownsville Concave and one Metamoras Triangular projectile points were also found.

Ojo de Agua Site - Tn<sup>C</sup>45

This site was unfortunately explored in the early evening and thus gathering of cultural material was not lucrative. The site itself was situated along the north bank of an island in the bay just east of Ojo de Agua. A fisherman's hut is just north of the site. The cultural strata was a thin dark strata at the top of a high bluff. Cultural material consisted mainly of Period VI materials which included one Huastec Black-on-White sherd, one Tancol Brown-on-Black, four Zaquil Red, one Molcajete having white paint like Huastec Black-on-White and with crude white incisions, two parts of concave based ollas, and one rim of a small mouthed olla with a groove on the junction of the neck and the body. Ten other sherds were found.

Alterations were to be found in one rim of a bowl with vertical scoring, large temper and a yellowish slip. This sherd might be either a Puebla Plain polished sherd or a crude Tancol





Heavy Plain. One crude equilateral triangular body point with a straight stem was found.

#### La Chalon Site - Tm<sup>C</sup>43

This site represents the furthestest northward extension of the Huasteca camps. It is situated north of the San Fernando River not far from the ranch named Las Lidas. More exactly, it is on the east side of a lake which the San Fernando Arroyo empties into and is about two miles above the ferry crossing. Much of the site appears to have been eroded out and the beach is littered with shell and flint chips. Four sherds could be immediately identified, three being Zaquli Red, and one Huasteca Black-on-White molcajete. Four other sherds badly eroded appear to form the sides of vertical side slightly incurved rim of a bowl with a more or less flat bottom. One small crude triangular projectile was found.

#### Tm<sup>C</sup>43 and Tm<sup>C</sup>44

These two sites are doubtful Huasteca camps. I say this for the reason that modern pottery is mixed with the sites, secondly, most of the sherds have eroded; and thirdly, circumstances permitted only cursory examination.

Tm<sup>C</sup>43 is situated on the west of the bay on the highest bluff just three kilometers east of Cjo de Agua. No cultural strata was observed. Part of a burial was found but position was indeterminate. Thirty unidentifiable sherds were found and one white sherd probably of Huastec Black-on-White type and one buff sherd of Huasteca Brown-on-buff and eight sherds with brushing probably Heavy Plain. Projectile points were numerous, including four Brounville type, one crude small triangular one, one Matamoros type, and three Tortugas triangular.





Tn<sup>C</sup>44 was situated about one-half mile south of Tn<sup>C</sup>43 on a low hillock. At the base of the hill just above the beach level at high tide a definite (one inch) shell layer was observed. From this shell layer or on the beach immediately in front of it, a few cultural materials were found. They include two Zaquil Red sherds, one concave based sherd, and four Heavy Plain sherds, one shell projectile point with a contrasting stem and one crude Tortugas triangular projectile point.

TABLE 11

## CORRELATION OF ARTIFACT TYPES AND HUASTEC COMPONENTS

| Artifact Type                                      | Huastec Component  |                    |                                       |                    |                    |                    |
|--|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
|  | Tn <sup>C</sup> 74 | Tn <sup>C</sup> 71 | Tn <sup>C</sup> 44<br>Upper<br>Levels | Tn <sup>C</sup> 45 | Tn <sup>C</sup> 46 | Tn <sup>C</sup> 43 |
| Tortugas Triangu-<br>lar                           |                    |                    |                                       |                    |                    | 1                  |
| Ladles   |                    |                    | 1                                     |                    |                    |                    |
| Panuco Heavy Plain                                 | 30                 | 6                  | 6                                     | 1                  |                    | 1                  |
| Zaquil Red   | 5                  | 11                 | 11                                    | 4                  | 3                  |                    |
| Elliptical stone<br>pendant                        |                    |                    | 1                                     |                    |                    |                    |
| Engraved sherds<br>(Huastec paste)                 |                    |                    | 16                                    |                    |                    |                    |
| Period VI shapes                                   |                    |                    | 1                                     | 3                  | 4                  |                    |
| Tancol Polychrome                                  | 2                  | 1                  | 3                                     |                    |                    |                    |
| Tancol Brown-on-<br>Buff                           | 3                  | 2                  | 5                                     | 1                  |                    | 1                  |
| Huastec Black-on-<br>white                         | 2                  | 2                  | 4                                     | 1                  | 1                  | 1                  |
| Brownsville Tri-<br>angular projec-<br>tile points |                    | 2                  |                                       |                    |                    | 4                  |
| Metamoros points                                   |                    | 1                  |                                       |                    | 1                  | 1                  |
| Keechi Concave                                     | 1                  |                    |                                       |                    |                    |                    |





TABLE 11 (Continued)

| Artifact Type                    | Huastec Component  |                    |                                       |                    |                    |                    |
|----------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
|                                  | Tm <sup>C</sup> 74 | Tm <sup>C</sup> 71 | Tm <sup>C</sup> 34<br>Upper<br>Levels | Tm <sup>C</sup> 45 | Tm <sup>C</sup> 46 | Tm <sup>C</sup> 43 |
| Butte Convex                     |                    | 1                  |                                       |                    |                    |                    |
| Winged Drills                    | 1                  |                    |                                       |                    |                    |                    |
| Historic Red-on-<br>White Sherds | 1                  |                    |                                       |                    |                    |                    |
| Wheel made Sherds                | 1                  | 6                  |                                       | 1                  |                    |                    |

| Artifact Type                                 | Huastec Component  |                    |                    |                                       |
|---|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------------------------|
|   | Tm <sup>C</sup> 42 | Tm <sup>C</sup> 72 | Tm <sup>C</sup> 73 | Tm <sup>C</sup> 34<br>Lower<br>Levels |
| Metate  |                    |                    |                    | 1                                     |
| Panuco Gray                                   |                    |                    | 1                  | 1                                     |
| Period V shapes                               |                    |                    | x                  | x                                     |
| Las Flores fine paste                         |                    | 2                  | 7                  |                                       |
| Las Flores Relief                             |                    |                    |                    | 1                                     |
| Las Flores Red-on-Buff                        |                    |                    | 1                  | 4                                     |
| Las Flores Red-on-Black                       |                    |                    |                    | 2                                     |
| Abasco Round Base type<br>projectile points   |                    |                    | 2                  | 2                                     |
| Nolan Beveled Stem type<br>projectile points  |                    |                    | 1                  |                                       |
| Tortugas Triangular type<br>projectile points |                    | 3                  | 1                  |                                       |
| Totnac Sherd                                  |                    |                    | 1                  |                                       |
| Panuco Heavy Plain                            | 4                  | 4                  | 26                 | 12                                    |
| Zequil Red                                    | 3                  | 10                 | 13                 | 12                                    |
| Engraved Sherds (Huastec<br>paste)            |                    |                    | 2                  |                                       |
| Period VI shapes                              |                    |                    | x                  |                                       |
| Tancal Polychrome                             |                    | 53                 | 1                  |                                       |
| Tancal Brown-on-Buff                          |                    | 1                  | 1                  |                                       |
| Huastec Black-on-White                        |                    | 10                 | 3                  |                                       |
| Brownville Triangular<br>projectile points    | 1                  |                    | 1                  |                                       |



TABLE 11 (Continued)

| Artifact Type                               | Huastec Component  |                    |                    |                                       |
|---|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------------------------|
|   | Tm <sup>6</sup> 42 | Tm <sup>6</sup> 72 | Tm <sup>6</sup> 73 | Tm <sup>6</sup> 34<br>Lower<br>Levels |
| Matamoros Triangular projec-<br>tile points |                    | 2                  |                    |                                       |
| Xoechi Concave                              |                    |                    | 1                  |                                       |

#### Summary and Conclusions

From the following descriptive reports of the camp sites a general summary of the Northern Coastal Huastec can be obtained that contains certain facts that are very pertinent to our problems.

During Periods V and VI (1000 A. D. to 1524 A. D.), the Huastec lived in Tamaulipas along the coastal fringes as far north as the San Fernando River. There is some ethnohistorical evidence for such distribution in 1523.<sup>46</sup> It is perhaps sig-

<sup>46</sup> Carlos E. Castaneda in an article entitled, "The Mission Era: The Finding of Texas 1519-1533" in Our Catholic Heritage in Texas 1519-1572 (Austin, Texas: Von Borstel-Jones Library, 1936), I, 23-25, indicates that Garay and Pineda established a village at the mouth of a river having palms, ninety leagues north of Rio Panuco. This river, with palms, he believes to be the Rio Grande. His actual proof for this identification is based on geographical distribution. A better basis for identification is to be found in the description of an overland trip from this river to Panuco in 1523. In this trip they cross two large rivers after leaving their village and before reaching Panuco (the rivers could only be the Soto la Marina and San Fernando), they travel for two weeks directly south for approximately ninety leagues which again would fit the distance from the Rio Grande to Panuco, and between leaving their village and the first river they travel for three days in swamp (there are only extensive swamps between the Rio Grande and the San Fernando) and finally only upon arriving at the first river do they note any mountains (the Sierra Madre when traveling south can first be seen at the San Fernando and are continuously in sight from there to almost Tampico). Only the Rio Grande will fit these four facts. However, what is most important is that after crossing the first river which they call





nificant for our problems that the northward extension of the Huastec occurred about the time as the first occurrence of Mexican-like traits in the Southeast and that the Huastec at only this time period had a large number of traits which are very similar to those of the Southeast (this will be elaborated on in Section III, Chapters III and IV).

The function of these northern Huastec camps is also important to the solutions of the problems of this dissertation. Since these camps are situated in the area of the Laguna Madre and not in the more fertile valleys of the Rio de las Palmas, Rio la Marina and San Fernando, it would appear that this is not a mere expansion of Huastec culture. Because it would appear logical that an expanding agricultural peoples as the Huastec would have moved into areas where cultivation was possible and possibly would have continued using agricultural implements in their pursuit of the activities. The area of northern Huastec sites is impossible for agriculture and agricultural implements (such as mano and metates) are not found on them, while a large number of hunting implements, i.e., projectile points, were. However, there appears to be two other possible purposes for these northern Huastec camps. The first is that these camps may belong to Huastec hunters and fishermen who moved northward in order to supplement the regular diet of peoples further south and who spasmodically traded with peoples they contacted in the northern region. Secondly, these camps may have been the bases of traders who moved northward to obtain objects from the northern

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Rio Monte (actually Rio San Fernando) they come upon a village of people from Chila. They capture two of the members of this village who guide them to their homeland that is Panuco, the Huastec capital. Thus it would appear that Saray saw a village of the Huastec on the Rio San Fernando.





peoples and who depended upon hunting and fishing while in the northern agriculturally sterile region. The presence of so many Huasteca objects in the Brownsville complex (to be described in the next chapter) as well as the finding of many exotic objects such as jadeite beads and pendants and spindle whorls (which hunters and fishermen would not normally carry) would seem to favor the second hypothesis concerning the function and reasons for these northern Huasteca camps. Such a function would be of great importance in a consideration of the problems of Mexican-Southeast relationships.

The material remains found upon these camps are of three general types. The majority of the material found is identical to that found at Panuco-Tampico region by Uhlen and any comparison with these materials justifies the conclusion that these peoples were Huastec and occupied this area during Period V and VI. The second kind of material I have called aberrant materials. By this I mean artifacts that in a majority of features are identical to that of the Tampico-Panuco region, but in minor features are different. Aberrant materials on the northern coastal Huastec sites are the sherds having a paste and surface finish of the kind found in the ceramics of the Panuco-Tampico region but bearing engraved designs not to be found on sherds of this time period further south. It is interesting to note that the contemporaneous Caddo folk of the Southeast employed engraving as a ceramic decoration almost to the exclusion of all other decorative techniques (see Plate XI). The final remains found are trade objects, that is, artifacts that the Huastec had received from other cultures. The Nolan Beveled stem type of projectile point made of flint from north Texas was received from the peoples employing a Clear Fork focus material culture. The Keechi Concave and Tatle Convex types



of projectile points were received from other central Texas peoples at a slightly later period. The winged drills and the square based drill and possibly the bifurcated based triangular point also appear to have been brought in from or by groups far to the north. Thus it would seem that the Huastec were in contact with and contemporaneous with groups in central Texas. The Abasco and Tortugas triangular types and the Abasco round based type of projectile point also indicate a contemporaneity and contact with the adjacent Abasco complex. The Matamoros and Brownsville triangular types indicate connections with the Brownsville complex to the north of the Huastec. In both the latter cases it would appear that Huastec had incorporated these foreign projectile point styles, originally belonging to the Abasco and Brownsville complex, into their own pattern of material culture. I say this because the styles of Brownsville and Abasco points are frequently found on many late Huastec sites and because these styles appear to be older in the former's material culture.

Thus, in conclusion, it seems possible to correlate the Huastec sequence with that of the rest of Tamaulipas and central Texas. Further, it is also possible to indicate that the Huastec had contact with groups adjacent to the Cadiz field of east Texas and having Mexican-like elements.





TABLE 12

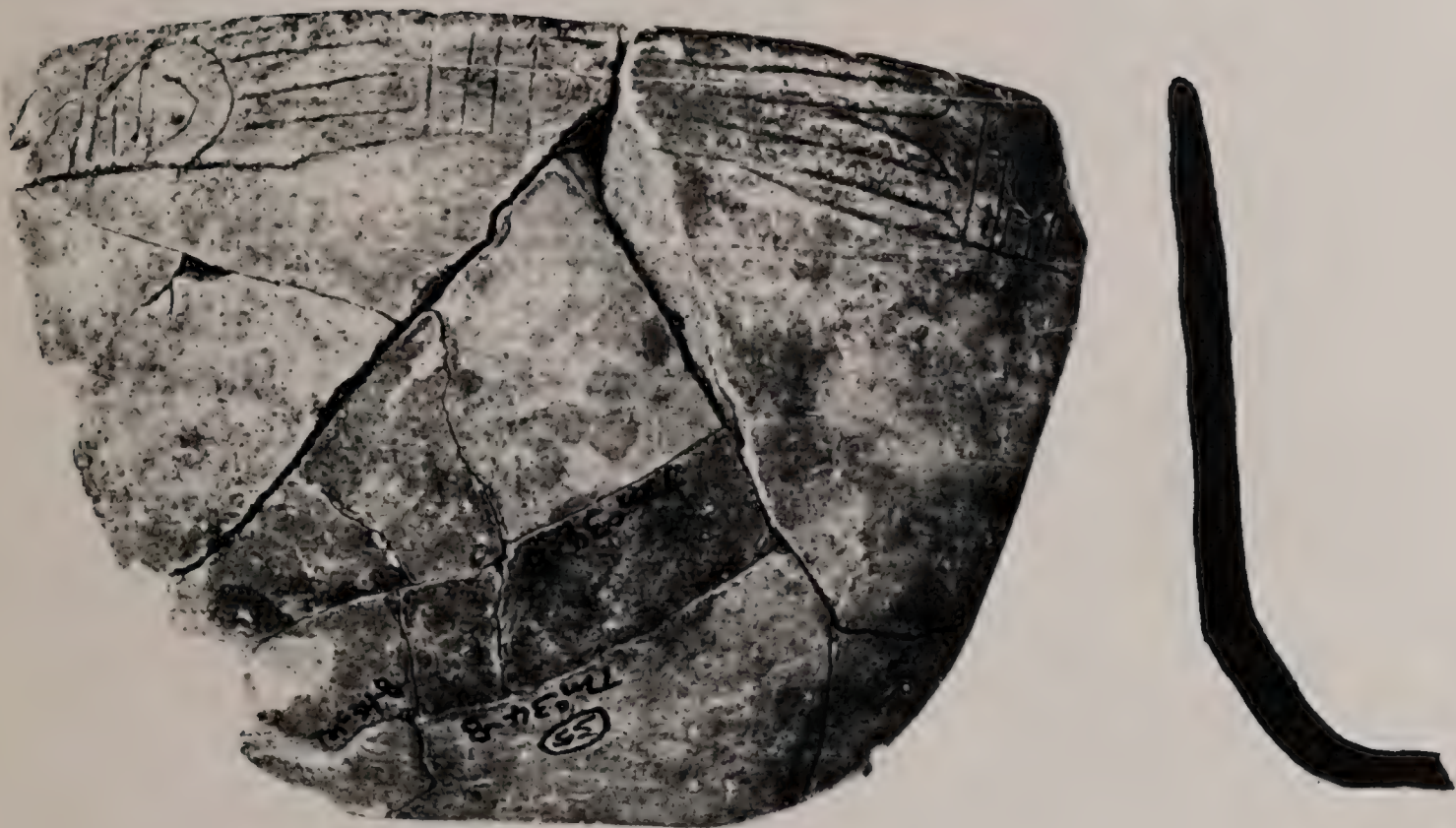
## DIRECTION OF ACTUAL TRACE ORIGINITY

| San Jose-<br>Panuco | Coastal<br>Tamaulipas | Inland<br>Tamaulipas | Rio Grande<br>Delta    | Central<br>Texas                       |
|---------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|------------------------|--|
| Period VI           | Mastec                | Abasco               |                        | Undefined late                         |
|                     | Period VI             |                      | Brownsville<br>culture | complexes around<br>San Antonio, Texas |
| Period V            | Mastec                |                      |                        |  |
|                     | Period V              | Abasco               |                        | Clear Fork River                       |
| Period IV           |                       |                      |                        |  |
| Period III          |                       |                      |                        |  |
| Period II           |                       | Repelo               |                        |  |
| Period I            |                       |                      |                        |  |

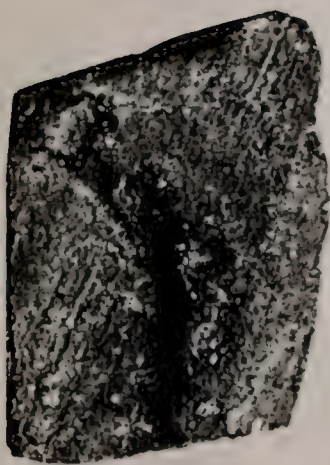




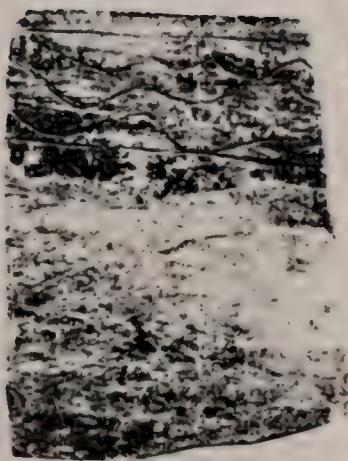
PLATE XX  
HUASTEC ENGRAVED SHERDS



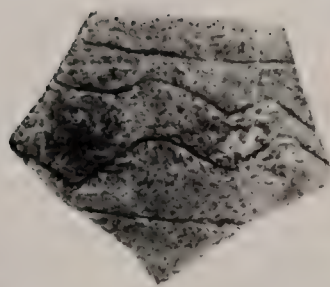
1.



2.



3.



4.





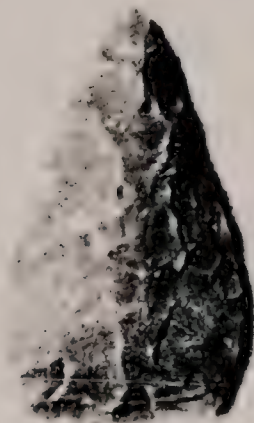
PLATE XXI.  
HUASTEC PROJECTILE POINTS



1.



2 .



3.



4.



5.



6.



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8.



9.



10.



11.



12.



13.



14.





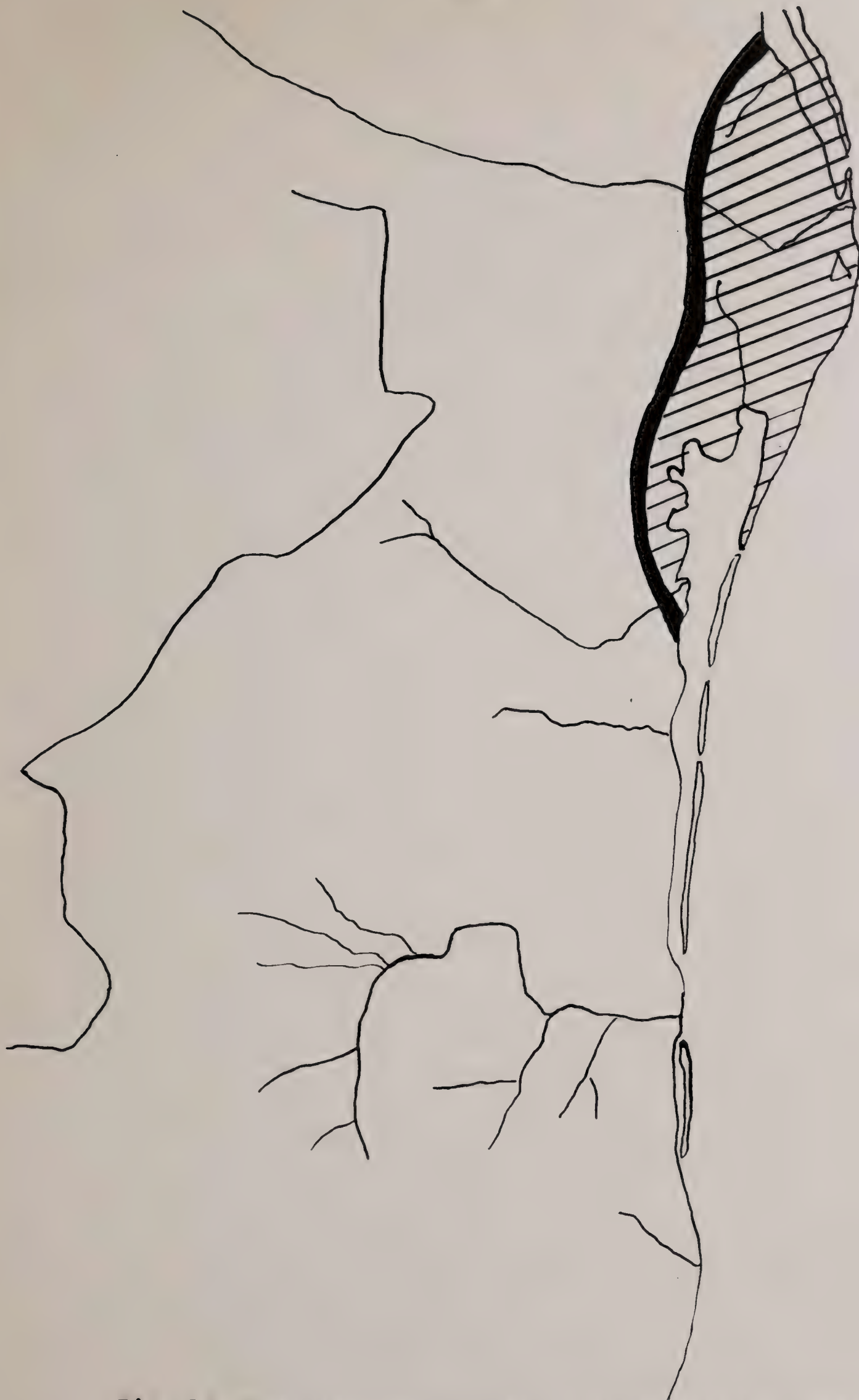


Fig. 13. The Distribution of the Brownsville Complex





## CHAPTER V

### THE BROWNSVILLE COMPLEX OF THE RIO GRANDE DELTA REGION

#### Introduction.

The Brownsville complex has been known for a considerable length of time, has been described sporadically for the last twenty years, and was for thirty years scientifically investigated by A. E. Anderson of Brownsville, Texas, an amateur archaeologist whose investigation could profitably be copied by most professional archaeologists. The articles that have been written consist of a paper by Mason on Huastec pots in a Brownsville complex site,<sup>47</sup> one article by A. E. Anderson, one on the artifacts of the area,<sup>48</sup> and a summary of the culture complex by Bayles.<sup>49</sup> Unfortunately in none of these is there a complete inventory of the items of the culture complex or an adequate description of its temporal position or its cultural relationships with other cultures. In my description of the complex, therefore, I shall attempt to correct these oversights and present some concrete conclusions made upon actual site by site analyses and correlations.

In my work in this region I discovered material remains of the Brownsville complex at twelve new places. I also spent a good deal of time checking the locations of sites described by

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<sup>47</sup>J. A. Mason, op. cit.

<sup>48</sup>A. E. Anderson, "Artifacts of the Rio Grande Delta Region," Bulletin of the Texas Archaeological and Ethnological Society (Dallas, 1932), IV, 2-11.

<sup>49</sup>Bayles, op. cit.





A. E. Anderson. In the Brownsville area I was able to locate by means of Anderson's notes and maps thirteen sites (out of fifteen I attempted to find). In the Tamaulipas Rio Grande Delta area I checked twenty-four of Anderson's sites with Louis Lollum, a former worker for Anderson, as my guide. From this checking of thirty-nine sites it became obvious that A. E. Anderson's material was accurately located. Also, all his specimens were numbered and their assignment to a site could be accomplished by reference to his field catalogue. His catalogue consisted of a series of site locations accompanied by the numbers of the specimens from each particular site. Next to every number of each specimen was a brief description of the kind of specimen. Fortunately, I was able to obtain from Mr. Anderson's surviving relatives the whole collection as well as the field notebooks.<sup>50</sup> These are now deposited in the collections of the Department of Anthropology at the University of Texas where I analyzed them. By studying the field notebook I ascertained that I had accurate location of sixty-four sites as well as numbers of catalogued specimens from each site. The materials from these sixty-four sites were added to those of my twelve sites. Thus the survey of this area netted seventy-six sites which yield an accurate and fairly complete inventory of the Brownsville complex.

In my analysis of the materials the first step was a classification of each kind of artifact found at any site of the region. This was easy to do as most of Anderson's collection was boxed according to general type of artifact. These artifacts were then grouped according to which site they had been discovered on. The materials from each site were then compared. From this checking it was possible to establish the fact that certain arti-

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<sup>50</sup> Now deposited in the Laboratory of Anthropology of the University of Texas.





facts appeared consistently at most of the sites and might be considered diagnostic of this cultural complex. It was also possible to determine what artifacts were aberrant forms in this culture and which ones were probably trade items, as well as to eliminate certain sites that did not have the diagnostic artifacts and could therefore be considered as belonging to a totally different culture complex. The following was only done with the Tansulipas materials as our time was very limited. However, the materials from Texas were also cursively gone over and for the most part were identical to those seventy-six in Mexico (except four which were assigned by Anderson to the Old Cayo complex and about which I will discuss later).

#### Description of the Brownsville Complex

The distribution of sites shows that this complex occupied an area north of the San Fernando River to the northern border of Cameron County, Texas, along the Gulf coast. Nowhere do these appear to have extended twenty-five miles inland from the coast. As a rule, the sites are found on small knolls near water or near extinct water depressions. The average site is characterized by pieces of broken shell scattered on its surface, a few chunks of burned clay or whole fired clay hearth areas, soil darkened by charcoal or decayed vegetable matter, and scattered flint chips and actual artifacts. The sites are generally small, usually less than one hundred yards in diameter, the average being about fifteen yards in diameter. From what could be observed from Arroyo, erosion and a little preliminary testing, it appears that the culture strata is never more than six inches in thickness. The average is about two inches. Occasionally, flexed burials in pits without artifacts (except for those few having Huastec items) are present in or near the sites. The sites cor-





tainly appear to be the remains of a nomadic group with a hunting and fishing economy (see Figure 13).

Characteristic of the Brownsville Complex are small triangular projectile points. Two hundred and fifty-eight of these are to be found upon sixty of the seventy-six Brownsville complex sites. These points I have divided into three types on the basis of form (and which show some chronological significance). These three types are called Brownsville Concave, Rio Grande Concave Base and Matamoros Triangular.

Brownsville Concave (see Plate XIII, figures 1, 2, and 3). These points vary between one-half inch long and one and one-quarter inches, are narrow (varying between one-half inch and one inch) and have slightly concave edges and a well defined concave base. They are usually thin and show finely executed retouching along their edges. Eighty-three of these were found at forty sites. This type is probably later than the other as it is associated most often with Huastec VI sherds and five points of this type are made of green bottle glass (see Plate XIII, figure 4).

Rio Grande Concave Base. These points are about the same size as the one previously mentioned. A difference lies in the fact that the edges are slightly convex while the bases are concave. The chipping appears to be the same. Ninety-four of these were found at thirty sites (Plate XIII, figures 5 and 6).

Matamoros Triangular (Plate XIII, figures 7, 8, and 9). This type has greater range in size being between one and one-half and one-third of an inch long and being from one inch to one-third of an inch wide. The edges and the base are slightly convex while the chipping is poorly done and the center is often rather thick. A sub-variety of this type may exist in very small points





(one-third of an inch wide and one-half inch long) having an equilateral triangular form. Eighty-one of the main types were found at thirty-three sites. This type appears to be slightly earlier than the other types as it is associated with Huastec V pottery. Other stone artifacts of the Brownsville Complex include small humpbacked scrapers (Plate XIII, figure 13), chipped pin-like drills (Plate XIII, figure 14), pebble hammerstones (Plate XIII, figure 15), and pitted stones. Most numerous of these are the small humpbacked scrapers, thirty of these being found at sixteen sites. This artifact is round in shape, has the ventral side represented by a flat flaked surface while the dorsal has been crudely chipped (or unchipped), and forms a hump. The edges show retouching on the dorsal side in one sector or all the way around. Seven pitted stones were at thirteen sites. These are usually elliptical boulders between two to six inches long and will have one to three pits on them. Sixteen pin-like drills were found on nine sites. The drills are made of flint and are between one and two inches long and in cross-section are roughly round being one-fourth inch in width. Usually they are roughly pointed on both ends. Thirty-seven rough pebbles showing evidence of chipping on one or more sides were found on eleven sites. Probably they recoccur more often than this but their crudity and surfaces covered by dirt discouraged myself and Mr. Anderson from picking them up.

Shell artifacts are more characteristic of this culture than any I know of. Not only do shell artifacts represent the preponderant majority of objects found on Brownsville sites but their variety of forms (and possibly function) is as great as to make description difficult if not tedious. The most distinctive objects found are shell projectile points (Plate XIII, figures





10, 11, and 12). Four hundred and thirty-two of these were gathered on fifty-three sites. These points are made of columella. They have been ground so they are round in cross-section (one-half inch thick), polished to a long tapering point (one to two inches in length) and have a polished beveled square base. Most numerous in frequency of occurrence are shell discs, four hundred and forty-one of which were found at forty-nine sites (Plate XXIII, figures 1, 2, and 3). These vary in size from that of a dime to half a dollar. The edges are usually rough though a few are polished. Similar to these in size and shape are ground shell discs with central perforation (Plate XXIII, figures 5 and 6). The edges of these are usually polished. Four hundred and thirteen of these occurred at forty-seven sites. Next in frequency are beads or tinklers of Oliva shells, sixty-seven having been picked up at thirty-one sites (Plate XXIII, figures 13, 14, and 15). To form these objects the bulbous ends of Oliva shells are cut off and near the pointed end opposite the opening, a hole is drilled or a notch is cut. Fifty-three cylindrical, polished columella center beads or tubes (varying in length from one-fourth of an inch to three inches) were discovered on thirty sites (Plate XXIII, figures 16 and 17). Related to these were found cylindrical, polished columella plugs of the same size. These occur less frequently as twenty-three were at twelve sites (Plate XXIII, figure 8). Frequently occurring, usually in small caches, were pierced shell scrapers (at twenty-seven sites). These are made out of mussel shells and often have two small holes next to the fulcrum.

Of particular interest are the numerous shell pendants or gorgets. I have for convenience divided them into five general types though considerable diversity occurs in each type.

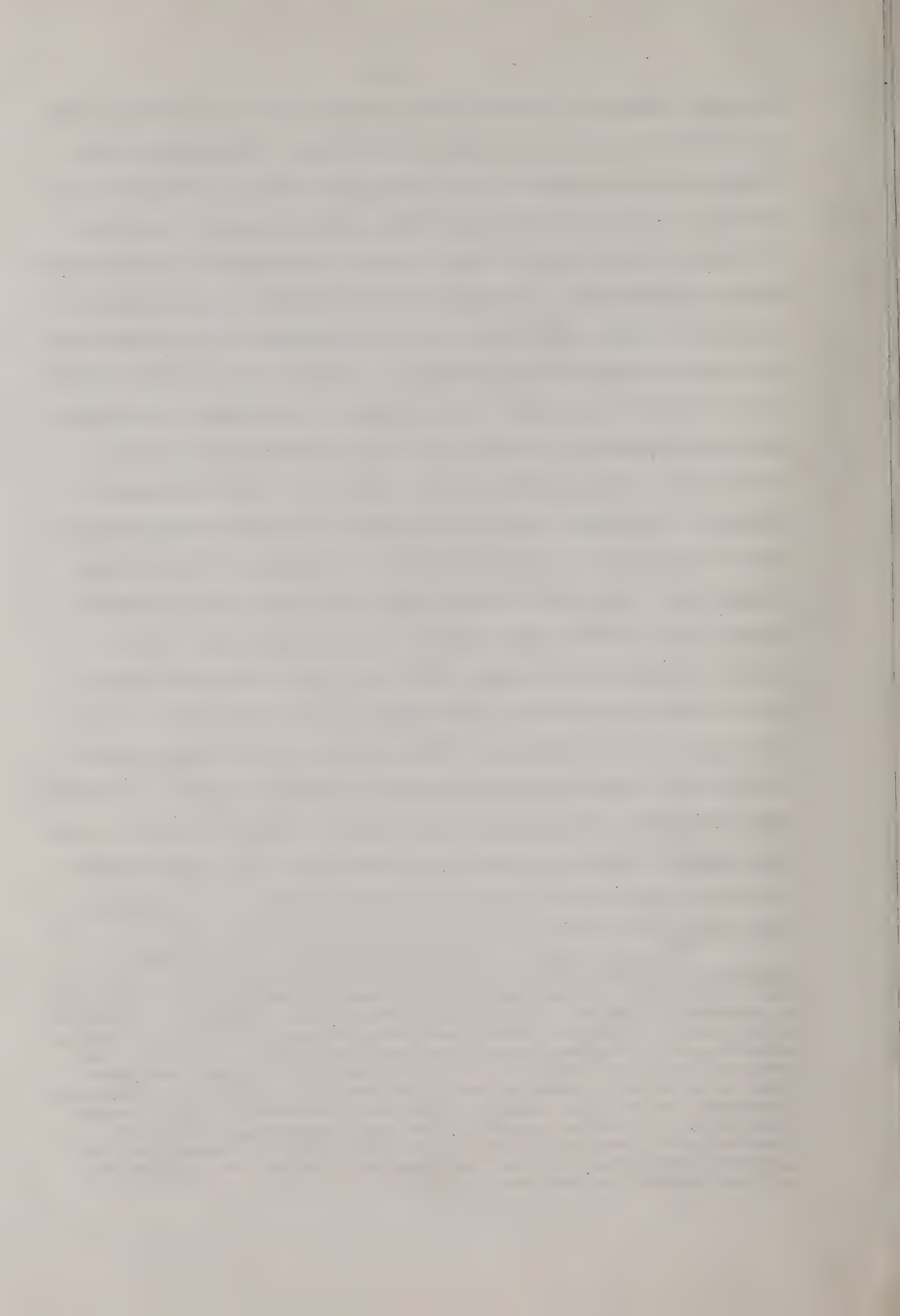




The most numerous of these (forty occurring at twenty-three sites) are what I have called rectangular gorgets. They vary in size from one-half inch wide to two inches wide and in length from one inch long to four inches long (Plate XVIII, figures 7 and 8). Piercing occurs at one or both ends and occasionally two holes are found at both ends. A few have rounded corners and give the appearance of being oval (Plate XVIII, figure 12). The second type is also rectangular but is noticeably longer (four to seven inches) than it is wide (usually three-quarters to one inch). This type may have piercing at either end or two piercings from the end through the surface (Plate XVIII, figure 3). Only forty-four occur at twenty-one sites. Of interest (because of similarity to Huastec gorgets) are the triangular shell gorgets (Plate XVIII, figure 10). They range in size from two inches wide and three inches tall to four inches wide and nine inches tall. Holes usually appear on the base, being two at each corner or three, or one centrally located in the base. A few have holes on the sides and some a hole at all three corners. It is significant to note that they do not have engraved scenes on them.<sup>51</sup> Occurring less frequently are square gorgets (one to one-half by one to one and one-half inches). Usually a central hole will appear though a few have holes at the corners. Three of these have engraved

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<sup>51</sup> This is with the possible exception of one given to Anderson as having been found in Cameron County, Texas. This pendant was broken in two and all that remains is the basal half of a triangular gorget. It was made from a conch shell and decorated with a full faced view of a human head carved in relief. A roll, which may be a snake, frames the face, and rising from the head are two crossing incised lines which become wavy and form into five or six small lines at their extremities. This may represent an outer head-dress. Hanging from the ears are two thick round earrings. Two holes appear at the basal corners. I believe this to be a Huastec gorget traded into the area because of its general form similarity to Huastec gorgets and the similarity of the figures on Huastec figurines.





crosses; one cross is inside a circle. A few round gorgets were found with central holes and some of these with notched edges. They varied from one to four inches in diameter. The finest type of gorgets are mollusca shells having holes at the mouth end. Engraving of geometric designs of cross hatching or straight lines occur on their interior (Plate XVIII, figure 11). A few shell fishhooks and gouges out of columella were found. This occurred so rarely here and do occur so frequently in the Corpus Christi region that I suspect they are trade objects from northward along the coast down into the Delta region.

Very few bone artifacts were found. Split bone awls, bone projectile points in the form of those of columella and carved hollow bone tubes comprise the types. Antler piercing tools are also present.

TABLE 13

CORRELATION OF SITES AND ARTIFACT TYPES OF THE BROWNSVILLE  
REGION

| Artifact Types                      | Site Numbers |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
|                                     | 50           | 52 | 56 | 58 | 60 | 61 | 62 | 63 | 64 |
| <u>Stone Projectile Point Types</u> |              |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| Brownsville concave                 | 1            | 2  | 1  | 4  |    |    |    |    | 1  |
| San Marcos Concave                  |              | 1  |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| San Marcos Triangular               |              |    |    | 1  |    | 1  |    |    |    |
| <u>Stone Tools</u>                  |              |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| Small fluted scrapers               |              |    | 1  |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| Unfluted pebble hammerstones        |              |    |    |    |    |    |    | 1  |    |
| Pitted stone                        |              |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| <u>Shell Artifacts</u>              |              |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| Columella points                    | 1            | 2  |    | 1  | 4  |    | 1  | 5  |    |
| Shell scrapers                      |              |    |    |    |    | 1  |    |    |    |





## TABLE 12 (Continued)

| Artifact Types         | Site Numbers |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|------------------------|--------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
|                        | 53           | 54 | 55 | 58 | 60 | 61 | 62 | 63 | 64 |
| <u>Bone Artifacts</u>  |              |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| Bone point             |              |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| Split bone awl         |              |    |    |    |    |    |    | 1  |    |
| Antler perforator      |              |    | 1  |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| <u>Shell Ornaments</u> |              |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| Shell discs            |              |    |    |    |    |    | 1  |    |    |
| Shell disc beads       | 1            | 4  |    |    | 1  | 1  | 2  | 1  |    |
| Columella tubes        |              | 1  |    |    |    |    |    | 1  |    |
| Shell plugs round      |              | 1  |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| Triangular eel.        |              |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| pendants               | 1            | 1  |    |    |    |    |    | 1  |    |
| Rectangular shell      |              |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| pendants               |              | 1  |    |    |    |    | 1  | 1  |    |
| Square shell pen-      |              |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| dants                  |              | 1  |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| Finklers               |              | 1  |    |    | 2  |    | 1  |    |    |

| Artifact Types          | Site Numbers |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|-------------------------|--------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
|                         | 53           | 57 | 60 | 61 | 62 | 63 | 64 | 65 | 66 | 67 | 68 |
| <u>Stone Projectile</u> |              |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| <u>Point Types</u>      |              |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| Lawrenceville Concave   |              |    | 4  | 1  |    | 1  | 1  | 1  |    | 4  | 1  |
| Rio Grande Concave      |              |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| Base                    |              |    |    | 1  | 1  |    |    |    |    | 5  |    |
| Metacres Triangular     |              |    |    | 4  | 1  |    |    |    |    | 4  |    |
| <u>Stone Tools</u>      |              |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| Small humpbacked        |              |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| scraper                 |              |    |    | 1  | 1  |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| Pin-like drills         |              |    |    | 1  |    |    |    |    |    | 1  |    |
| Pitted Stone            |              |    |    |    |    |    |    | 1  |    |    |    |
| Large ovoid knife       |              |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| <u>Shell Artifacts</u>  |              |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| Columella points        | 1            | 2  | 12 | 16 | 1  |    | 1  | 4  |    | 1  |    |
| Columella gouge         |              |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| Shell scrapers          |              |    |    |    | 1  |    |    |    |    | 4  |    |
| Shell fishhook          |              |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    | 1  |    |
| <u>Bone Artifacts</u>   |              |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| Bone point              |              |    |    | 1  |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| Split bone awl          |              |    |    |    |    | 1  |    |    |    |    |    |





TABLE 18 (Continued)

| Artifact Types           | Site Numbers |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|--------------------------|--------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
|                          | 65           | 67 | 68 | 61 | 62 | 63 | 64 | 65 | 66 | 67 | 68 |
| Shell Ornaments          |              |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| Shell discs              |              |    | 4  | 43 | 1  |    | 2  | 2  | 1  | 4  |    |
| Shell disc beads         |              | 1  | 2  | 25 |    |    | 1  | 1  |    |    |    |
| Columella tubes          | 1            |    | 1  | 2  | 1  |    |    |    |    | 1  |    |
| Shell plugs round        |              |    |    | 3  | 2  |    |    |    |    |    | 1  |
| Shell plugs rect.        |              |    |    | 1  |    |    |    |    |    | 1  |    |
| Olive shell beads        |              |    |    | 1  |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| Triangular col. pendants | 2            | 1  |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| Rect. pendants           |              | 1  |    |    |    |    |    |    |    | 1  |    |
| Long rect. pendants      |              |    |    | 2  |    |    |    |    | 1  |    |    |
| Square pendants          |              |    |    |    |    | 1  |    |    |    |    |    |
| Tinklers                 | 1            | 1  | 2  |    |    |    |    |    |    | 2  |    |

| Artifact Types        | Site Numbers |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
|-----------------------|--------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
|                       | 100          | 101 | 102 | 103 | 104 | 105 | 106 | 107 |
| Stone Projectile      |              |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Point types           |              |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Brownsville concave   | 1            | 1   | 4   |     |     |     |     |     |
| Rio Grande concave    |              |     | 5   | 2   | 2   | 2   | 1   |     |
| Barbs                 |              |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Mataceroes triangular |              |     |     | 1   |     |     |     |     |
| Stone Tools           |              |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Small lump. scrapers  |              | 3   | 1   | 1   | 1   |     |     |     |
| Pin-like drills       |              |     | 1   | 1   |     |     |     |     |
| Large ovoid knife     |              | 1   |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Shell Artifacts       |              |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Columella points      |              | 1   | 3   |     |     |     |     | 7   |
| Columella gouge       |              | 2   |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Shell scrapers        |              | 1   |     |     |     |     |     | 5   |
| Shell fishhook        |              |     |     |     | 1   |     |     |     |
| Bone Artifacts        |              |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Point bone nail       |              | 1   |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Shell Ornaments       |              |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Shell discs           | 1            | 1   | 7   |     | 2   |     |     |     |
| Shell disc beads      |              | 1   | 2   |     |     |     |     | 2   |
| Columella tubes       | 1            | 1   |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Shell plugs rect.     | 1            |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Olive shell beads     |              |     |     | 2   | 2   |     |     | 1   |
| Rect. pendants        |              |     |     |     |     |     |     | 1   |
| Long rect. pendants   |              | 1   | 1   |     |     |     |     | 1   |
| Tinklers              |              |     | 1   |     | 1   |     |     | 1   |



TABLE 13 (Continued)

| Artifact Type                       | Site Numbers |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
|                                     | 108          | 109 | 110 | 111 | 112 | 113 | 114 | 115 | 116 | 117 | 118 |
| <u>Stone Projectile Point Types</u> |              |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Brownsville Concave                 |              |     | 1   |     |     |     | 1   | 1   |     |     | 1   |
| Rio Grande Concave                  |              |     |     | 1   |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Large                               |              |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Estaneros Triangular                | 1            |     |     |     |     |     |     |     | 1   |     |     |
| <u>Stone Tools</u>                  |              |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Small humpbacked scrapers           |              |     | 1   |     |     |     | 1   |     |     |     |     |
| Pebble Hammerstones                 | 1            |     |     |     |     | 2   |     |     |     | 5   | 3   |
| Pin-like drills                     |              |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     | 1   |
| Pitted stone (anvil)                |              |     |     |     |     |     |     |     | 1   |     | 1   |
| <u>Shell Artifacts</u>              |              |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Gelamella points                    | 7            | 2   |     | 14  |     | 1   |     | 4   | 1   | 6   |     |
| Gelamella gouge                     |              | 3   |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Shell scrapers                      | 6            |     |     | 5   |     | 2   |     | 1   | 6   | 4   |     |
| Shell drill                         |              |     |     |     |     |     |     | 2   |     |     |     |
| <u>Bone Artifacts</u>               |              |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Bone point                          |              |     |     | 1   |     |     |     |     |     | 1   |     |
| Antler perforated                   |              |     |     | 2   |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| <u>Shell Ornaments</u>              |              |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Shell discs                         | 16           | 1   | 5   | 13  |     | 5   | 1   | 5   | 2   | 7   | 4   |
| Shell disc beads                    | 3            |     |     | 5   | 1   | 1   |     | 4   |     |     |     |
| Gelamella tubes                     | 2            | 1   |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Shell plugs rect.                   |              |     |     | 1   |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Olive shell beads                   |              |     |     | 2   |     |     |     | 1   | 3   | 5   | 1   |
| Tri. col. pendants                  |              |     |     |     |     |     | 1   |     |     |     |     |
| Rect. pendants                      |              |     |     | 1   |     |     |     | 1   |     |     | 1   |
| Long rect. pendants                 | 2            |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Tinklers                            |              |     |     | 3   | 2   |     |     |     |     | 1   | 2   |

| Artifact Type                       | Site Numbers |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
|                                     | 119          | 120 | 121 | 122 | 123 | 124 | 125 | 126 | 127 | 128 | 129 |
| <u>Stone Projectile Point Types</u> |              |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Brownsville Concave                 | 4            | 4   | 7   | 1   | 1   |     |     | 1   |     |     |     |
| Rio Grande Concave                  | 11           | 12  | 7   |     |     |     |     |     | 6   |     |     |
| Estaneros Triangular                | 1            | 6   | 4   |     | 4   |     |     |     |     |     |     |





TABLE 13 (Continued)

| Artifact Types               | Site Numbers |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
|------------------------------|--------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
|                              | 119          | 120 | 131 | 122 | 123 | 124 | 125 | 126 | 127 | 128 | 129 |
| <u>Stone Tools</u>           |              |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Small humpbacked<br>scrapers |              | 5   |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Robble Hammerstones          |              | 3   |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     | 1   |
| Fin-like drills              |              | 6   | 1   |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Pitted stone(anvil)          | 1            | 1   |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| <u>Shell Artifacts</u>       |              |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Collumella points            | 28           | 7   | 34  | 1   | 7   |     | 14  |     |     |     | 1   |
| Collumella gouge             | 1            | 1   |     |     | 3   |     |     | 1   |     |     |     |
| Shell scrapers               | 22           |     | 2   |     |     |     |     |     |     | 1   |     |
| Fishhook                     | 2            | 2   |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| <u>Bone Artifacts</u>        |              |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Bone point                   | 5            |     | 7   |     |     |     |     | 1   |     |     |     |
| Split bone awl               | 2            | 1   |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Antler perforated            |              | 1   |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| <u>Shell ornaments</u>       |              |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Shell discs                  | 28           | 5   | 63  | 1   | 11  |     |     |     |     | 2   | 2   |
| Shell disc beads             | 25           | 2   | 120 |     | 5   | 3   |     | 1   | 12  | 1   | 1   |
| Collumella tubes             | 1            | 1   | 5   |     | 2   | 3   |     |     |     |     |     |
| Shell plugs round            | 2            |     | 1   |     | 1   |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Shell plugs rect.            |              | 1   |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Olive shell beads            | 1            | 4   |     |     |     | 1   |     |     |     |     |     |
| Tri. col. pendants           | 1            | 2   | 1   |     |     | 1   | 1   |     |     |     |     |
| Rect. pendants               | 5            | 3   | 2   |     |     | 3   | 1   |     |     |     | 1   |
| Long rect. pendants          | 3            | 1   | 14  |     |     |     |     |     | 1   |     |     |
| Square pendants              |              |     | 1   |     |     | 2   |     | 1   |     |     |     |
| Rect. cut shell              |              | 1   | 22  |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Scallop shell orn-<br>ament  |              |     | 1   |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Winklers                     | 4            | 2   | 6   |     |     | 7   |     |     | 2   | 2   |     |
| <u>Bone Ornaments</u>        |              |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Cut human Jaw                |              | 1   |     |     |     |     |     |     | 2   |     |     |
| Carved Bone Tubes            |              | 1   |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |

| Artifact Type           | Site Numbers |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
|-------------------------|--------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
|                         | 123          | 124 | 125 | 126 | 127 | 128 | 129 | 130 | 131 | 132 | 133 |
| <u>Stone Projectile</u> |              |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Point Types             |              |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Brownsville Concave     |              | 1   |     |     | 2   | 2   | 2   |     |     |     |     |
| Rio Grande Concave      |              |     |     |     |     | 1   | 6   |     | 1   |     |     |
| Base                    |              |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Metamorphs Triangular   | 5            | 2   | 1   | 4   | 2   | 2   | 1   | 1   |     |     |     |





TABLE 15 (Continued)

| Artifact Types               | Site Numbers |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
|------------------------------|--------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
|                              | 133          | 134 | 135 | 136 | 137 | 138 | 139 | 140 | 142 | 143 |
| <u>Stone Tools</u>           |              |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Shell humpbacked<br>scrapers | 2            |     |     |     | 2   | 4   | 3   |     |     |     |
| Pebble Hammerstones          |              |     |     |     | 2   | 4   |     |     |     |     |
| Pin-like drills              |              |     |     |     | 1   | 1   |     |     |     |     |
| Pitted stone (anvil)         | 1            |     |     |     | 1   | 1   |     |     |     |     |
| <u>Shell Artifacts</u>       |              |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Columella points             | 21           | 14  | 5   | 27  | 13  | 1   | 4   |     |     | 1   |
| Columella gouge              |              |     | 1   |     | 2   |     |     |     |     |     |
| Shell scrapers               |              |     |     |     | 1   | 1   |     |     |     |     |
| Fish hook                    |              |     |     |     | 1   | 1   |     |     |     |     |
| <u>Bone Artifacts</u>        |              |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Bone point                   | 1            |     |     |     | 1   |     |     |     |     |     |
| Split bone awl               |              |     |     |     | 1   |     | 2   |     |     |     |
| <u>Shell Ornaments</u>       |              |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Shell discs                  | 7            | 6   | 8   | 11  | 16  | 9   | 16  |     | 1   |     |
| Shell disc beads             | 1            | 5   | 2   | 11  | 8   | 5   | 8   | 11  | 1   |     |
| Columella tubes              | 1            | 1   |     |     | 2   |     |     | 5   |     |     |
| Shell plugs round            |              | 1   |     |     | 1   |     |     |     |     |     |
| Tri. col. pendants           |              |     |     |     | 1   |     | 1   | 1   |     | 1   |
| Rect. pendants               |              |     |     |     |     | 1   |     |     |     | 1   |
| Long rect. pendants          |              |     | 1   |     |     | 1   | 2   |     | 1   | 2   |
| Square pendants              |              |     |     |     |     | 1   |     |     |     |     |
| Tinklers                     |              |     |     | 1   | 10  | 1   | 8   |     |     |     |
| <u>Bone Ornaments</u>        |              |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Old Human Jaw                |              |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Carved bone tubes            |              |     |     |     |     | 1   |     |     |     |     |

| Artifact Types                      | Site Numbers |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
|                                     | 144          | 146 | 146 | 147 | 148 | 149 | 151 | 152 | 153 | 154 |
| <u>Stone Projectile Point Types</u> |              |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Brownsville Concave                 | 1            |     | 1   |     | 4   | 1   |     | 1   | 2   | 2   |
| Rio Grande Concave                  |              |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Base                                | 1            |     | 1   | 2   | 3   | 4   | 2   |     |     | 4   |
| Natamores Triangular                | 2            | 1   | 2   | 3   | 2   | 2   |     |     | 3   | 2   |
| <u>Stone Tools</u>                  |              |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Small unnotched ser-<br>pers        |              |     |     |     |     |     | 1   |     | 2   | 1   |
| Pebble Hammerstones                 |              |     |     |     |     |     |     |     | 2   |     |
| Pin-like Drills                     |              | 1   |     |     |     |     |     |     |     | 2   |
| Fitted stone (anvil)                |              |     | 2   |     |     |     |     |     | 1   |     |



TABLE 13 (Continued)

| Artifact Types         | Site Numbers |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
|------------------------|--------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
|                        | 144          | 145 | 146 | 147 | 148 | 149 | 151 | 152 | 153 | 154 |
| <u>Shell Artifacts</u> |              |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Columella points       |              | 2   | 37  | 1   | 11  | 3   | 3   | 2   | 1   | 12  |
| Columella gouge        |              |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Shell scrapers         |              | 2   | 1   | 3   | 5   | 1   | 2   | 6   |     | 5   |
| <u>Bone Artifacts</u>  |              |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Bone point             |              |     | 1   |     |     |     |     |     | 1   |     |
| Split bone awl         |              |     |     |     |     | 1   |     |     |     |     |
| Antler perforated      |              |     | 1   |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| <u>Shell Ornaments</u> |              |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Shell discs            |              | 7   | 15  | 3   | 2   | 6   | 3   | 4   | 21  | 12  |
| Shell disc beads       |              |     |     | 5   | 2   | 4   | 3   | 4   | 10  | 2   |
| Columella tubes        |              | 1   |     | 1   | 1   |     |     |     | 1   | 2   |
| Shell plugs, round     | 1            |     | 1   | 1   |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Olive shell beads      |              |     |     | 1   |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Tri. col. pendants     |              |     |     |     | 2   |     | 2   |     | 4   |     |
| Rect.                  |              |     |     |     |     | 1   | 2   |     |     |     |
| Long rect. pendants    | 1            | 1   | 2   |     |     |     |     | 1   | 1   | 1   |
| Square pendants        |              |     |     |     |     | 2   |     | 2   |     |     |
| Tinklers               | 1            |     | 2   |     | 2   | 1   |     |     |     |     |

| Artifact Types                 | Site Numbers |     |     |     |     |    |
|--------------------------------|--------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|
|                                | 155          | 156 | 161 | 161 | 157 | 56 |
| <u>Stone Projectile Points</u> |              |     |     |     |     |    |
| Brownsville Concave            | 4            |     | 1   |     | 1   | 2  |
| Rio Grande Concave Base        | 4            | 1   | 2   |     |     | 3  |
| Matamoros Triangular           | 2            |     | 3   |     |     | 1  |
| <u>Stone Tools</u>             |              |     |     |     |     |    |
| Shell humpbacked scrapers      | 3            |     |     |     |     |    |
| Pitted stone (anvil)           | 4            | 1   |     |     |     |    |
| <u>Shell Artifacts</u>         |              |     |     |     |     |    |
| Columella points               | 2            | 40  | 1   | 1   |     | 14 |
| Columella gouge                | 1            |     |     |     |     |    |
| Shell scrapers                 | 2            | 2   |     | 2   |     |    |
| <u>Bone Artifacts</u>          |              |     |     |     |     |    |
| <u>Shell Ornaments</u>         |              |     |     |     |     |    |
| Shell discs                    | 3            | 13  |     |     |     | 5  |
| Shell disc beads               |              | 23  | 5   |     |     | 5  |
| Columella tubes                | 1            | 5   | 1   |     |     | 1  |
| Olive shell beads              |              |     |     |     |     | 1  |
| Tri. col. pendants             | 1            |     |     |     |     |    |
| Rect. pendants                 |              |     |     |     |     | 1  |
| McIlroy shell armband          |              | 2   | 1   |     |     | 4  |





TABLE 14

## NUMBER AND FREQUENCY OF BROWNVILLE ARTIFACTS

| Artifact                    | Total No.<br>of the<br>Type | Number of<br>Sites at<br>Which Type<br>Appears |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|--|
| Brownsville Concave         | 42                          | 40   |
| Big Grande Concave          | 44                          | 39   |
| Base                        | 31                          | 38   |
| Notched Triangular          |                             |  |
| Small indented              |                             |  |
| scraper                     | 30                          | 14   |
| Chipped Pebble Hammerstones | 27                          | 11   |
| Pin-like drills             | 10                          | 5  |
| ribbed stone                | 17                          | 12   |
| Large ovoid knife           | 1                           | 1  |
| Columella points            | 441                         | 33   |
| Columella gouges            | 14                          | 9  |
| Shell scrapers              | 100                         | 33   |
| Fish hook                   | 8                           | 3  |
| Shell drill                 | 2                           | 1  |
| Bone point                  | 19                          | 8  |
| Split Bone Awl              | 12                          | 10   |
| Antler perforated           | 6                           | 4  |
| Shell discs                 | 257                         | 80   |
| Shell disc beads            | 222                         | 47   |
| Columella tubes             | 30                          | 30   |
| Shell plugs round           | 10                          | 12   |
| Shell plugs rect.           | 11                          | 5  |
| Olive shell beads           | 20                          | 14   |
| Tri. col. pendants          | 17                          | 12   |
| Rect. pendants              | 26                          | 12   |
| Long rect. pend.            | 42                          | 21   |
| Square pendants             | 2                           | 7  |
| Rect. cut shell             | 22                          | 9  |
| Scallop shell arm-band      | 2                           | 4  |
| Tinklers                    | 60                          | 26   |
| Cut Human jaw               | 1                           | 2  |
| Carved bone tubes           | 2                           | 3  |





### Culture Contacts of the Complex

The Brownsville culture contacts were primarily with the Huastec. Moreover, these contacts were carried on over a long period of time (Huastec Period V and VI) and appeared to be of an intimate nature. The number of sites at which Huastec materials will be listed below and should attest to the fact that these contacts were numerous. As may be noted in the list, the sherds are predominantly of Huastec Period VI with a few from Period V. However, more than mere trading appeared to have occurred between the two cultures. The identical use of projectiles of the same type, such as: Brownsville Concave, Rio Grande Concave Base, Matamoros Triangular, and the occurrence in both complexes of shell tinkler, shell discs, shell disc beads, columella tubes, shell fishhooks and triangular shell gorgets would appear to indicate a long and intimate period of influencing between two cultures of very different levels of complexity. The hypothesis also was put forward (and negated) that the contacts might have been the results of contacts of Huastec hunters with northern people. The large number of utilitarian objects (pottery) in these camps, the common objects in Huastec and Brownsville cultures (mentioned above), the finding of non-utilitarian objects such as jadeite beads and colts, spindle whorls, obsidian, a figurine head probably obtained from the Huastecs, seem to indicate something more than the occasional bartering of hunters with nomadic neighbors. (Plate XXIV, figures 14, 15, 16, and 21). In fact, no hypothesis seems to fit the facts except that Huastec were consciously sending traders into this region. The purpose of these traders may have been to obtain bow and arrows, pipes, and shell artifacts in exchange for Huastec objects.





A number of projectile points indicate contact between the Brownsville complex and complexes of central Texas. Found at site Tm<sup>C</sup>91 was a triangular bodied point with a flaring stem and a straight base. It was three-fourths of an inch long and one-half inch wide and is very thin (about one-sixteenth of an inch). The point is made from a gray, translucent, sandy-feeling flint. A. Brieger identified this point as being Widdy Expanding Stem type, diagnostic of the Austin focus, a protohistoric group (probably Forks) of central Texas. The flint also was noted as being very macroscopically the same as that of the Austin region of Texas (Plate XXIV, figure 2). Found on site Tm<sup>C</sup>113 was one small triangular point three-fourths inch long, two-thirds inch wide with a concave base and side notches which Kelly stated was very similar to the Keechi Concave type (Plate XXIV, figure 3).<sup>52</sup> This point is found (often occurring with Hutto Convex type on a number of late prehistoric sites, 1400 to 1800 A. D.) in the central Texas region. Also collected on this site was a large side notched point. This point is one and seven-eighths inches long and one inch wide across the body (at the widest point), has a convex edge, a long shallow side notch and a convex base. Kelly's distribution maps of projectile points in Texas indicate a similar type (as yet unnamed) that is distributed in central Texas, north of Austin and San Antonio (Plate XXIV, figures 6 and 7). Chronologically it appears to be late prehistoric and occasionally is associated with Late Clear Fork dart points. Found on Tm<sup>C</sup>121 was a small (one inch long, three inches wide) triangular bodied point with a tapering long base. Tom Campbell informed me that this type is found distributed along the Neches River and probably

<sup>52</sup> Kelly, personal communication.





is late prehistoric. On Tn<sup>C</sup>123 Anderson picked up one small projectile that J. C. Kelley immediately identified as Hutto Convex (Plate XXIV, figure 5). The point is about one inch long with tapering sides, a small well-defined side notch and a rounded convex base. It appears in Late Prehistoric times in central Texas.<sup>53</sup> From one of Anderson's sites, numbered Tn<sup>C</sup>137, Tom Campbell also picked out a projectile triangular form being one and three-fourths inches long and one-half inch wide at the base which had tapering serrated edges.<sup>54</sup> This point, he informs, is found in the Corpus Christi region and northward in sites of Late Prehistoric times (Plate XXIV, figure 11). The final point is roughly triangular, being one and one-half inches long and one-half of an inch wide at the base. The base is definitely concave, the edges are slightly tapering (being slightly concave and then are slightly convex as they approach the point). The only type I could find similar to it was to be found in northeast Texas and has been called Tulec Triangular (Plate XXIV, figure 10). This type is to be found in the Titus and Sender's local of late prehistoric times (as well as in a number of other local of that time period). It is made out of flint completely foreign to my area.

Three types of drills were found that probably came from northern Texas (since none of this type are to be found in Mexico or the immediate region in Texas). Three of these drills are of the flaring based variety (Plate XXIV, figure 4), another is winged (Plate XXIV, figure 8), while the other is a rectangular based type with a very short shaft (Plate XXIV, figure 3). The first three were found on Tn<sup>C</sup>93, Tn<sup>C</sup>164 and Tn<sup>C</sup>130, the next at Tn<sup>C</sup>110, while the last was at Tn<sup>C</sup>121. These types of drills occur

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<sup>53</sup> Campbell, personal communication.

<sup>54</sup> Idem.





over most of northern Texas, in late prehistoric times and are slightly more concentrated to the east than to the west.

A third group of trade artifacts comes from the European (Spanish?) culture groups. These consist of round ground pottery discs made from European glaze decorated sherds. Such were found at Tm<sup>C</sup>120 and Tm<sup>C</sup>121. Some of the other wheel-made sherds were found on Brownsville sites which I have usually assumed to have been accidentally very recently dropped, but may actually be of the prehistoric period (1540-1720 A. D.). However, as good as the glaze sherds made into Brownsville type pottery discs was the finding of small triangular projectile points of the Brownsville Concave type manufactured from green bottle glass (Plate XIII, figure 4). One of these I picked up on Tm<sup>C</sup>68 while the other two came from two sites in Cameron county.

The final group of trade materials found in the Brownsville complex appear to have come from the neighboring (and evidently partly contemporaneous) Abasco complex. Tortugas Triangular types were found at Tm<sup>C</sup>50, Tm<sup>C</sup>68, Tm<sup>C</sup>61, Tm<sup>C</sup>119, Tm<sup>C</sup>121, and Tm<sup>C</sup>151. The Abasco Round Base type was found at Tm<sup>C</sup>58, Tm<sup>C</sup>111, Tm<sup>C</sup>120, and Tm<sup>C</sup>152.

#### Chronological Position of the Complex

The Brownsville complex appeared to have been contemporaneous with the Huasteca during Periods V and VI as well as the part of the Abasco complex, the Austin Focus, Clear Fork Focus and other complexes of central Texas. The basis for this conclusion is the trade points in the Brownsville complex.

The earlier extension of the culture is defined by three sets of facts. One, the Huastec Period V can be correlated with Tula-Mazapan and it in turn with Mexican Period at Chichen Itza and the Maya Calendar. In the Maya the calendrical authorities date



the beginning of the Mexican Period (and therefore Iustices Period V) as about 1000 A. D.<sup>55</sup> Secondly, the absence of Langtry stemmed points (dated indirectly by dendrochronologically dated sherds from the southwest as 500 to 1000),<sup>56</sup> and their presence in the surrounding and nearby Abasco and Repolo complexes seem to attest to the fact that the Langtry stemmed points were no longer being made when the Brownsville complex flourished. The significance of this absence is important since no Langtry stemmed points were found in the twenty thousand projectile points picked up in the Brownsville area. Therefore, from this conclusion the Brownsville must have come after 1000 A. D. The final evidence is relative, not exact as the other facts. In the region of the mouth of the San Fernando River site Tn<sup>C</sup> 53, a Brownsville complex site was found in a strata over the remains of Tn<sup>C</sup> 53, an Abasco complex site. This stratigraphy appears to be further confirmed by Anderson's work in Cameron in which he found a number of burial sites he called the "Old Cays Culture." This group of artifacts was stated as preceding the Brownsville materials. An examination of the materials of the "Old Cays complex" reveal that the only projectile points found (three) were Abasco complex points, these being (two) Tortugas triangular and (one) Abasco Round Base. Thus it would appear that in the Rio Grande Delta area the Brownsville complex replaced the Abasco complex which in turn continued to exist south and west of the Delta Region.

The glazed sherd discs and the glass projectile points would seem to indicate that the Brownsville complex lasted up until historic times. The Austin focus point, a protohistoric

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<sup>55</sup>Acosta, op. cit.

<sup>56</sup>Kelley, Campbell and Leimor, op. cit.





focus tentatively identified with the Tonkawa tribe, tends to confirm this conclusion. Thus the final date of this culture might have been somewhere between 1519 (date of Pineda-Jaray expedition) and 1720 (the conquest of Tamaulipas by Caceron). Probably a date of about 1650 would be the best approximation. The ethnographic data places the Comacuerdo tribe consistently in maps as being a group occupying the Delta Region of the Rio Grande during this time period. Thus it is plausible that the Comacuerdo probably had the material culture represented in the Brownsville complex. This tentative conclusion should be verified by further work in the area.

### Summary

As a summary of the material culture of the Brownsville complex, I offer the following trait list. This trait list is composed of traits that constantly reoccur at numerous sites in this area (for further details see pages 154 to 156).

#### Ecological Situation

1. Small camp site located on hills.
2. Hunting and food gathering economy.
3. Nomadic existence.
4. A few burnt skulls give evidence of cannibalism.
5. Irregular hearths.

#### Burial Customs

1. Flexed burials
2. Burial in pits
3. Burial grave goods very rare.
4. Grave goods when they occur consist of Maestec articles and shell beads.





## TABLE 15

### RECENTLY ADDED TITLES

| Name Objects<br>or<br>Type | Site Numbers |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |    |    |     |    |
|----------------------------|--------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|----|-----|----|
|                            | 133          | 137 | 140 | 142 | 144 | 147 | 150 | 157 | 17 | 18 | 154 | 50 |
| Forest VI image            |              |     | 1   | 1   |     | 4   |     | 1   | 4  |    |     |    |
| Forest D/S                 |              |     |     |     |     |     |     |     | 1  |    |     | 1  |
| Forest Brown/White         |              |     |     |     |     |     | 1   |     |    |    |     |    |
| Forest Polydrome           |              |     | 1   |     |     |     |     |     | 1  |    |     |    |
| Forest 300                 |              |     | 1   |     |     |     |     |     | 10 | 2  |     |    |
| Forest Brown<br>Dark       |              |     |     |     |     | 1   |     |     |    |    |     | 1  |
| Forest Brown<br>Light      |              |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |    |    |     | 1  |
| Forest Brown<br>Light      | 1            |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |    |    |     |    |
| Forest Gray                |              | 1   |     |     |     |     |     |     |    |    |     |    |
| Forest Brown               |              |     |     |     |     |     |     |     | 1  |    |     |    |

[illegible]



TABLE 24 (Continued)

| Trade Objects<br>or<br>Type | Site Numbers |     |     |     |    |     |     |     |     |    |     |     |
|-----------------------------|--------------|-----|-----|-----|----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|-----|-----|
|                             | 111          | 123 | 151 | 152 | 93 | 135 | 123 | 110 | 127 | 31 | 120 | 121 |
| Small Polychrome            | 1            |     |     |     |    |     |     | 1   | 1   |    | 1   |     |
| Mitto convex                |              |     |     |     |    |     | 1   |     |     |    |     |     |
| Mochoi concave              |              |     |     |     |    |     |     | 1   |     |    |     |     |
| Jedite Objects              |              |     |     |     |    |     | 2   |     |     |    |     |     |
| Zagull Red                  |              |     | 1   | 1   |    |     |     |     |     | 1  |     |     |
| Talco triangular<br>sherds  |              |     |     |     |    |     |     |     |     |    |     |     |
| Tortugas triangu-<br>lar    |              |     |     |     |    |     |     | 1   |     | 1  |     | 1   |
| Abasco round base           | 1            | 1   |     | 1   |    |     |     |     |     |    |     |     |
| Large side-<br>notched      |              |     |     |     |    |     |     | 1   |     |    |     |     |
| Flaring base<br>shill       |              |     |     |     |    | 1   |     |     |     |    |     | 1   |
| Las Flores fine<br>paste    |              |     |     |     |    |     |     |     |     |    |     |     |
| Las Flores relief           |              |     |     |     |    |     |     |     |     |    |     |     |
| fine                        |              |     |     | 1   |    |     |     |     |     |    |     | 1   |
| Spirilla wheel              |              |     |     |     |    |     |     | 1   |     |    |     |     |
| Shill Red                   |              |     |     |     |    |     |     | 1   |     |    |     |     |

| Trade Objects<br>or<br>Type  | Site Numbers |                  |
|------------------------------|--------------|------------------|
|                              | 157          | 1m <sup>63</sup> |
| Projectile Point of<br>glass |              | 1                |
| Wheel-made sherds            |              | x                |
| Inastec B/W                  | 1            |                  |

Material Objects for the Collection of Environment

1. Brownsville concave projectile points.
2. Rio Grande Concave projectile points.
3. Matamoros triangular point.
4. Small humpbacked scraper.





3. Caracol (columnella) projectile points.
4. Pebble hammerstones.
5. Fitted stones.
6. Flint pin-like drills.
7. Split bone awls.
8. Bone projectile points.
9. Shell scrapers.

#### Available Objects

1. Shell discs
2. Shell disc beads
3. Shell tinklers.
4. Triangular shell pendants.
5. Round shell pendants.
6. Rectangular shell pendants.
7. Long rectangular shell pendants.
8. Square shell pendants.
9. Shell tubes
10. Shell plugs.
11. Olive shell beads.
12. Shell plugs.

#### Objects possibly belonging to the Complex

1. Shell fishhooks.
2. Antler perforators.
3. Hollow carved bone tubes.
4. Cat human jaws.
5. Scallop shell arm bands.
6. Tubular pipes made from pumice.
7. Pottery discs.
8. Inclined pebble pendants.





The following table will perhaps indicate best the chronological and cultural relationships of this group. Arrows indicate trade relationships while vertical arrangements represent chronology at various areas.

TABLE 18

## CORRELATION OF SEQUENCES FROM CENTRAL TEXAS TO TAMPICO

| Tampico Region | Plain Region | Delta Region | Central Texas<br>(Tonkawa)  |
|----------------|--------------|--------------|-----------------------------|
| Huestec VI     |              | Brownsville  | Austin Texas<br>Focus       |
|                |              | Brownsville  | Other Central<br>Texas Foci |
|                | Abasco       |              |                             |
| Huestec V      |              | Brownsville  | Clear Fork                  |
| Huestec IV     | Abasco       | Abasco       |                             |



## CHAPTER VI

### SUMMARY OF MATERIAL RELEVANT TO THE MAIN PROBLEM

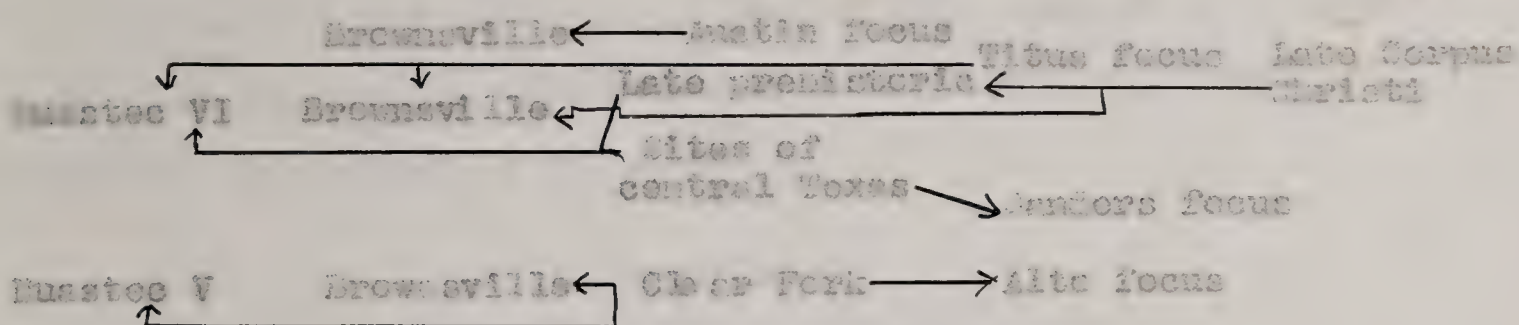
In this short section I shall attempt to summarize the materials found in the survey that appear to shed some light upon the solution of our problem of Southeast-Mexico relationships.

Of greatest importance is the fact that projectile points of central Texas cultures (some of which are in contact with cultures of the Gadic area) were found on Huastec camps, and in camp sites of the Brownsville complex (who traded extensively with the Huastec). It would appear that there had been contact between Period V Huastec camps and the Clear Fork focus of central Texas (indicated by Nolan Beveled stem at Tm<sup>C</sup>73) as well as contact between the Huastec (probably Period VI) and the Titus focus of east Texas (indicated by Talco triangular at Tm<sup>C</sup>73). Also, the finding of a Koochi concave type projectile point on a Huastec camp, Tm<sup>C</sup>73, points toward a Huastec contact with a late prehistoric culture of central Texas. The rectangular based drill and flaring based drills found on Huastec camps also appear to point to a late prehistoric contact with central or east Texas. The Brownsville complex, intimately in contact with the Huastec as shown by seventy-three Huastec objects at twenty-one out of the total seventy-six Brownsville sites, appear to have had northern contacts. The latest contacts are indicated by the Vally expanding stemmed point of the Austin focus on a Brownsville site. Little convex and Koochi concave points on these Rio Grande delta sites shows a slightly earlier set of contacts with central Texas as do the tapering stemmed and serrated edged point from Corpus Christi





region. One point of Paleo Triangular variety of the Titus focus in east Texas at site Tn<sup>C</sup>151 indicated a northward contact of late prehistoric times. The earlier group of contacts to central Texas are indicated by a large convex based side notched point (as yet an unnamed type). This type is often associated with the Clear Fork focus. The drill also indicates Brownsville receiving artifacts from the North Texas region. The following table should diagrammatically indicate these trade relationships.



The second relevant fact that was brought out by the survey is concerning the distribution and function of the northern coastal Huastec camps. It is very significant I believe that a narrow chain of Huastec camps have been found along the coast in the Laguna Madre area. These camps are only of period V and period VI of the Huastec and extend northward over two hundred miles from the area usually thought of as being Huastec. Secondly, it has been pointed out that probably the function of these camps was to act as bases for Huastec traders. Thus one is able to state that groups of traders of one of the "higher," more complex cultures of Mexico (i.e., the Huastec) were moving northward along the coast toward the Southeast between 1000 to 1500 A.D.

The negative evidence from the survey seems to point out that no high culture from Mexico moved northward before 1000 A. D. nor do there appear to have been any contacts between the cultures of eastern Texas and central or eastern Texas before that





Other facts that appear to be quite important in the solution of our Southeastern-Mexico problem is that the "cult" or Mexican-like material in the Southwest seems to appear at about the same time that the Huastec traders' camps are moving northward. To illustrate it, let me show the sequence of cultures of Tamaulipas and summarize the sequences that have previously been presented. Then I shall use another chart to show the correlation of central Texas, east Texas and Louisiana, the Valley of Mexico, the Huastec and the cultures of Tamaulipas. This will be based upon trade materials. The sequence of cultures of Tamaulipas have been determined as follows:

TABLE 16  
SEQUENCE OF CULTURE IN TAMAUlipas

|      | Rio Grande<br>Delta Region | Coastal Plain<br>of Tamaulipas | Coastal<br>Tamaulipas | Sierra de<br>Tamaulipas                   |
|------|----------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------|---|
| 1700 | Brownsville                | Abasco                         | Huastec VI            | Los Angeles                               |
| 1400 |                            |                                | Huastec V             |   |
| 1000 | Abasco                     | Abasco                         |                       | Pueblito III<br>Pueblito II<br>Pueblito I |
|      |                            | Royolo                         |                       | Pueblo                                    |

Telescoping this sequence as it shows only the cultures having affiliation to the north and actually have complex Meso-American type materials, our sequence might be something like this:



Brownsville

Huastec VI - Brownsville

Huastec V - Brownsville

Pueblito III

Pueblito II

Pueblito I

By trade points from central Texas make it possible to connect this sequence with that region. The work of Krieger has correlated the sequence of central Texas, the Gadsden area and Louisiana.<sup>57</sup> Fortunately Ekholm has established the Huastec sequence for the Tampico-Panuco area and has in turn correlated it with Valliant's sequence for the Valley of Mexico.<sup>58</sup> The following table will graphically show these correlations.

TABLE 18

## SEQUENCE OF CULTURE IN MEXICO AND THE SOUTHEAST

| Louisiana           | Gadsden Area  | Central Texas   | Tampulipas                | Tampico   | Valley of Mexico |
|---------------------|---|---|---------------------------|-----------|------------------|
| Earlier             | Gadsden-<br>Titus-Fl.<br>Coffee<br>Texarkana,<br>etc. | Austin<br>Pecos   | Brownsville               |           |                  |
| Present             | Henders<br>Late Spiro                                 | prehis-<br>toric<br>complex<br>of cen-<br>tral<br>Texas<br>region | Brownsville<br>Huastec VI | Period VI | Astec            |
| Late Coles<br>Creek | Little<br>Spiro-<br>valley                            |   |                           |           |                  |

<sup>57</sup> Krieger, op. cit.

<sup>58</sup> Ekholm, op. cit.





TABLE 13 (Continued)

| Louisiana         | Caddo Area  | Central Texas | Texas                 | Texas      | Valley of Mexico  |
|-------------------|-------------|---------------|-----------------------|------------|-------------------|
| Early Caddo Creek | Early Caddo | Blair Park    | Brownsville Huastec V | Period V   | Tula              |
| Druryville        | Alto        |               | Pueblito III          | Period IV  | Late Teotihuacan  |
|                   |             |               | Pueblito II           |            |                   |
|                   |             |               | Pueblito I            | Period III | Early Teotihuacan |
|                   |             |               |                       | Period II  | Cuicuilco-Ticomán |
|                   |             |               |                       | Period I   | Copilco           |
|                   |             |               |                       |            | Zacatonco         |

Thus it would appear that at the time the culture in the Southeast (i.e., the Caddo) began to have ceremonial artifacts and use symbolic concepts reminiscent of Mexico, that Huastec traders were establishing camp sites northward along the Texas coast and were also directly or indirectly (via the Brownsville complex) being contacted by groups from central Texas who in turn also contacted Caddo groups. From this material I have derived the hypothesis that Huastec traders who had moved north, contacted the Caddo area via the central Texas route, were influenced by and influenced the Caddo to use certain ceremonial-symbolic concepts manifested in art and artifact, and finally, that the Caddo people passed on these ceremonial concepts to other





groups in the Southeast.

The parts of the above hypothesis, while only hinted at in the previous material, can be verified (and my problems solved) by the following kind of evidence:

1. By showing that Iuustee artifacts have been found in the remains of cultures of central Texas;
2. By pointing out certain similarities in Iuustee and Caddo material remains (that are of a sufficiently complex nature) that only can be accounted for by diffusion;
3. By showing that the material reminiscent of Mexico appear in the Caddo area before they appear in the rest of the Southeast;
4. By bringing forth Caddo material from Iuustee sites or Iuustee materials from Caddo sites.

In the next section I shall present evidence for the first three kinds of proof listed above. These alone I believe should be sufficient to tentatively verify the hypothesis. Only when the fourth is done can one say the hypothesis is definitely proved. Unfortunately the presentation of the last type of data must await further intensive work.



### SECTION III

#### RELATIONSHIP OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL DATA WITH THE MYTHOLOGY





## CHAPTER I

### MEXICAN OBJECTS OF TEXAS

From time to time during the past twenty years descriptions and pictures of Mexican-like objects discovered in central Texas have appeared in periodicals. Various professional men (anthropologists and geologists) have received similar objects from amateur archaeologists and other individuals. Unfortunately, archaeologists in their endeavor to be scientific have either ignored these objects or classified them as fakes. Early in my study I realized the importance of these finds and made a special effort to check the conditions under which they were found as well as attempt to determine Mexican sources of these objects.

This checking and analysis proved most fruitful for the following significant facts became apparent:

1. In all the thirteen objects classified were styles or types that appeared after the Tula-Mazapan (Huastec V) time period in Mexico.
2. That seven out of the thirteen objects were definitely Period V or VI Huastecan while the other five might be.
3. That in four cases out of twelve the conditions and the finders were sufficiently reliable that there could be no doubt of the authenticity of the finds.
4. That the combination of the following facts enhance their authenticity considerably and make it so that none of these objects can be ignored in a study of Southeast-Mexico prehistoric relationships. The combination of facts are: that all the objects are of the same time period as the movement on the Tamaulipas coast





of the "civilized" Huastec that many of these objects are Huastecan of the same time period and culture which was moving northward along the Tamaulipas coast and finally all were found in a region of Texas having prehistoric cultures which "traded" objects down into the Huastec (and Brownsville complex) in Tamaulipas and southernmost Texas.

In 1939, Carl Chalf discovered a greenstone head at the Grelle site in Travis County, Texas. "According to Dr. George Vaillant and Dr. J. A. Mason the material resembles porphyries used in the states of Pueblo and Vera Cruz. They are also of the opinion that the appearance of the specimen suggests a southern Mexican origin, possibly Guerrero."<sup>59</sup> In my opinion the head is not particularly distinctive and could come from any of a number of Mexican cultures. However, the flat back of the head would seem to point to post-Tula-Mazapan manufacture. Further, I have seen specimens in the Blas Rodriguez collection from the Huasteca around Tampico made of this same green porphyres. This green porphyries is as far as I know, unknown in natural outcropping in Texas.<sup>60</sup> The specimen itself was picked up on the surface of this site. Moreover, Dr. Kelley has stated that during the extensive W. F. A. digs that celts and long slivers of this same material were found in excavations. Further, the site had a number of Baird thinned base and Baird beveled blade types of projectile points diagnostic of the Clear Fork Focus. Also, it had trade material from the Alto focus. Therefore, the specimen has been assigned to the time period of from 1000 to 1500 A.D.<sup>61</sup>

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<sup>59</sup> Carl Chalf, "A Greenstone Head from Travis County, Texas," Bulletin of the Texas Archaeological and Paleontological Society, Vol. VIII, Dallas, Texas.

<sup>60</sup> Kelley concurs. Personal communication.

<sup>61</sup> J. S. Kelley, "The Cultural Affiliations and Chronological Position of the Clear Fork Focus," American Antiquity, XII, No. 2, 104.



## SCULPTURED HUASTEC OBJECT FROM TEXAS



ONE  
INCH





Another small carved head was picked up near Cross Plain, Callahan County, Texas, just northeast out of Coleman, Texas. This specimen was presented to Dr. E. H. Sellards at the Texas Memorial Museum. It was reportedly found on an archaeological site. The fact that this region is the center of the Clear Fork Focus now would seem to indicate it was picked up on Clear Fork focus site. However, its greatest bid to authenticity is its shape and form. The head carved out of solidified volcanic stuff has a conical cap with balls around its base and a ringed plane separating the balls from the head (See Plate XIV). The facial features are slightly eroded but still gives the appearance as representing a very Mongoloid face. This type of cap and head is rather typical of (if not diagnostic of) the late (Period V or VI) Huastec sculptured, carved, or painted figures.<sup>62</sup>

A small clay head was presented to Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Ray and reported to have come from a rock shelter site west of Olco, Texas. This head is modeled out of clay and is distinguished by its wide opened mouth. Dr. Huguera at the First Caddoan Area Archaeological Symposium of 1948 immediately identified it as being the Asted God, Iipe-totec. He stated that this god appears late in the prehistory of Mexico. Until more is known of the pantheon of Huastec deities, it can not be decided whether this also is a Huastecan object.

Another item of interest is a head found in Dallas, Texas, carved from hard cemented volcanic ash.<sup>63</sup> The carving certainly appears similar to ones in Mexico, particularly in the Huasteca.

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<sup>62</sup> James Dyer, "Small Ceramic Vase from the Huasteca, Mexico," *Middle American Research Series*, No. 3, pamphlet 4 (New Orleans: Tulane University, 1933).

<sup>63</sup> *Bulletin of the Texas Archaeological and Ethnological Society* (Dallas, Texas: 1931), III, 93.





The photograph of it shows a flat back and therefore probably is of a late date. The details concerning its finding are not clear further than that it was discovered around Dallas.

A Huastec spindle whorl of the Period V variety<sup>64</sup> was presented to the Laboratory of Anthropology at the University of Texas. This was reported to have been found near Fort Worth. Further details of the object will be found in an article by A. Krieger now in the process of being written.

Two pottery stamps, identical in pattern to those found in Huastecan Period V were found on a site in northeast Texas. A. Krieger will also report on these objects.

Dr. Krieger has also informed that a collection from Dallas has a carved head made of jade. Further details will be forthcoming in his paper.

A carved stone spherical bead made of hard igneous rock was found in a site between Abilene and Fort Worth. It is of the type that is most numerous in late Huastec sites of the Tampico-Tehuacan region. Again, Krieger should shed further light on this object in his forthcoming paper.

Of perhaps more exact nature are three sherds of Huasteca, Black-on-White. Krieger, when he took over the Laboratory of Anthropology of the University of Texas, found this object in a box labeled north "Chamber's County." That these are Period VI Huasteca there is no doubt. However, until more is known of the circumstances under which they were found, opinion concerning their authenticity must be withheld.

The final object to be described is not reported to have come from central Texas but from the Spiro site of eastern

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<sup>64</sup>This was shown to me by Alex Krieger at the Laboratory of Anthropology of the University of Texas in December, 1945.





Oklahoma.<sup>65</sup> This has been persistently called a fake by professional archaeologists. However, I never heard any reason for this classification other than it looks too much like an Aztec Codex figure. The object itself is the upper portion of a human figure engraved on bone. There is no doubt about its resemblance to Aztec figures. It, however, looks even more similar to the Huastec painting at Temuin. It is unfortunate that this was not found under better conditions or reported by more reliable sources. Especially if my theory is correct concerning the contact being made by traders, then the number of perishable objects used in trade would be large and the non-perishable ones few and extremely difficult for archaeologists to find. Fortunately, the possibility for finding objects in Caddo, Gideon Aspect sites is good for the more westerly burials of the Sanders Focus and Alto Focus have still not been exhumed. In conclusion, I believe one must say of the carved bone object at Spiro that it may be an actual trade object from Mexico.

### Summary

The finding of these late Mexican (many Huastecan) objects in central Texas would appear to agree with the finding of central Texas projectile points on Huastec (and Brownsville complex) camp sites. Not only do the areas of the trade objects dovetail rather nicely, but the time periods of the movement of these objects seems to be the same. These facts do much for establishing the route of contacts between the Southeast and Mexico. For from the distribution of northern contact Huastecan camp sites, the central Texas trade objects on Huastec and Brownsville camp sites, the Huasteca and Mexican objects on central

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<sup>65</sup> Shown by S. Hamilton at the Caddo Conference, 1968.





Texas camp sites and the central Texas-Caddo contacts established by Kelley,<sup>66</sup> all point to routes from the Huastecan region of Tampico-Panuco, up the Tamaulipas coast, into central Texas and finally into the Caddo area. At present there seems to be no evidence for any other route. Also, the numerous Huastec objects in central Texas as well as the northward extension of Huastec camps seems to give further evidence for the Huastec being a possible source of Mexican influence into the Southeast.

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<sup>66</sup>J. C. Kelley, 1947, op. cit.





## CHAPTER II

### THE MEXICAN INFLUENCE IN THE SOUTHEAST ITS ORIGIN AND DIFFUSION

For the last few years there has been considerable controversy concerning a so-called "cult" that existed in the late cultures of the Southeast.<sup>67</sup> In this thesis I am not interested in whether this assemblage of art and artifacts were manifestations of a "cult" (though I believe they were not), nor in the actual material content of this so-called "cult" nor in a definition of the word "cult." My primary concern lies in the resemblances of some of the "cult" manifestation to objects in Mexico (which I shall discuss rather fully in the next chapter), the place of origin of the cult in the Southeast, the time period of the origin of the cult and the diffusion of the elements of the "Southeast Ceremonial Cult." These fields I consider most pertinent to my problems of relationship between the Southeast and Mexico.

Numerous authors have contributed articles concerning the Mexican-like objects in the Southeast. Zelia Nuttall was among the first.<sup>68</sup> On the basis of comparisons of Aztec codices and artifacts and art from Moundville, she concluded that a warrior cult had spread from the Aztec into the Southeast at late times. This first article was followed by one by Phillip Phillips<sup>69</sup> in

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<sup>67</sup>A. J. Waring and F. Holder, "A Prehistoric Ceremonial Complex in the Southeastern United States," American Anthropologist, LVIII, 1-24.

<sup>68</sup>Zelia Nuttall, op. cit.

<sup>69</sup>P. Phillips, op. cit.





which he surveyed the Mexican-like objects in the Southeast and concluded that there had been contact between the two areas in rather late times in the Southeast. Ford and Willey, in their article on the Prehistory of the Eastern United States, list a number of traits that occur in Temple Mound II and which they consider to be a ceremonial cult as well as a time marker in early posthistoric times.<sup>70</sup> This was followed by the classic article on the subject by Waring and Holder that carefully checked the culture items that appear in the Southeast and which they believe form the cult. They also seem to believe the cult is late prehistoric and the differences in areas caused by differences in local adaptation to the cult.<sup>71</sup> John Bennett's study of the subject seems to infer that Mexican influences had been coming into the Southeast for a considerable length of time, but only during late times, Mississippian, were the natives of the Southeast able to assimilate traits in great amounts and that these traits formed a cult.<sup>72</sup> Dr. James Griffin suggested that the "cult" may have arisen due to the Mexicans left in the Southeast by the De Soto Expedition.<sup>73</sup> Mr. John Griffin illustrated a number of cult objects made on bronze which further backed up the prehistoric date of the cult.<sup>74</sup> Dr. R. Orr, in his article on Spiro, seemed to agree that these objects of a ceremonial nature found at Spiro

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<sup>70</sup> J. A. Ford and G. Willey, "An Interpretation of the Prehistory of the Eastern United States," American Anthropologist, LXVII, 325-335.

<sup>71</sup> Waring and Holder, op. cit.

<sup>72</sup> J. Bennett, op. cit.

<sup>73</sup> J. A. Griffin, op. cit.

<sup>74</sup> John H. Griffin, "The Goodnow Mound, Highlands County, Florida," Contributions to the Archaeology of Florida No. 1 (Tallahassee: Florida Park Service, 1943).





represented a cult of early protohistoric times.<sup>75</sup> A. Krieger seems to have been the lone and loudest protester to the cult idea and to the protohistoric date.<sup>76</sup> Further he backed up his protests with considerable evidence. First of all he brought forth some proof that much of the cult, at least in the Caddo area, was prehistoric, and secondly he pointed out the many of the items associated at the different centers showed considerable variation. In fact, he believed this variation indicated that the assemblages of ceremonial artifacts did not represent a cult, but rather magical and religious ideas that were probably common in all the Southeast and possibly had been derived from previous traditions. However, all authorities on the subject seem willing to admit that there are a number of items (fifty-one according to Tarring and Holder)<sup>77</sup> that are similar throughout the area and which bear resemblances to Mexico. These facts seem well established and I feel safe in accepting this conclusion. The dating of the cult, its origin, and spread have been little discussed. This is, of course, important to my study and will be discussed in the following paragraphs.

First let us consider the place of origin of these Mexican-like ceremonial objects in the Southeast. There seems to be a considerable body of evidence to indicate this assemblage of Mexican-like material is earlier in the Caddo area than any part of the Southeast. This evidence I have divided into ten main points which may be considered as ten items of proof for the origin of "cult" in the Caddo area:

<sup>75</sup>Kenneth G. Orr, "The Archaeological Situation at Spiro, Oklahoma, A Preliminary Report," American Antiquity, XI, No. 4, 230-253.

<sup>76</sup>A. Krieger, "An Inquiry into Supposed Mexican Influence on a Prehistoric 'Cult' in the Southern United States," op. cit.

<sup>77</sup>Tarring and Holder, op. cit.





1. In a Sanders focus burial (the Sanders focus has cult material and is located in east Texas) there was recovered one small trade bowl. This bowl has a polished surface which has been painted red. The lip is flat. The form of the bowl is that of a hemisphere with a flat bottom. The temper of the vessel is finely ground limestone. This bowl in all aspects is identical to and may be identified as Monks Mound Red of the Old Village Focus of Monks Mound Aspect.<sup>78</sup> The Old Village focus east of the Mississippi has been correlated by all workers with the development period of early Middle Mississippi or Temple Mound I stage. This stage in every case (east of the Mississippi) preceded the stage having cult materials.<sup>79</sup> Therefore, Sanders cult materials precede the cult materials east of the Mississippi.

2. Found in the middle period levels at Spiro was one shell tempered small mouthed jar having two small loop handles<sup>80</sup> (Spiro C type 1). Spiro is a site having cult also, its pottery is predominantly clay tempered and this pot would appear to me to be a shell tempered pot from the Middle Mississippi area. It has been well established that in the Middle Mississippi area the loop handled vessels come before the strap handled vessels.<sup>81</sup> Further, the strap handle jars are the type east of the Mississippi that are associated with cult materials as at Etowah, Moundville, Dallas focus, Angel site, Alpaka focus, etc. There-

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<sup>78</sup>A. Eriogor, "Cultural Complexes and Chronology in North Texas," op. cit., p. 217.

<sup>79</sup>Ford and Willey, op. cit.

<sup>80</sup>This pot was misidentified as a pot having strap handles by K. Orr, op. cit., but this oversight was corrected by Griffin and MacNeish at the First Gadsden Conference in 1946.

<sup>81</sup>James H. Griffin, "Culture and Continuity in the Eastern United States," in man in Northeastern North America, Report of the Robert S. Peabody Foundation for Archaeology (Andover, Mass., 1943), Vol. III.





fore, the Spiro cult materials precede the cult materials to the east of it.

3. Krieger has found that the Gibson foci (Sanders and Spiro with cult materials and Haley without) have some pottery vessels bearing handles. These include Monkstown Fingernail punctated found in the Haley and Sanders foci, a negative painted waterbottle, and the two vessels just mentioned at Spiro.<sup>82</sup> In every case the handles are the loop type. The sequential following Fulton aspect foci have mainly strap handles.<sup>83</sup> This sequence of handles is valid east of the Caddo area. However, the cult material eastward appears with the strap handles horizon and after the loop handles horizon. Therefore, the Gibson aspect foci having cult material (Sanders and Spiro) are earlier than cultures to the east having cult materials.

4. Found in Early Spiro not associated with the cult were numerous Early Coles Creek sherds.<sup>84</sup> Since Late Coles Creek is derived from Early Coles Creek and Middle Spiro from Early Spiro I believe the two are contemporaneous. Ford and Willey have well indicated that Late Coles Creek precedes the cult east of the Mississippi.<sup>85</sup>

5. Further Griffin, Ford, and Phillips in their work in Northwest Mississippi have numerous sites producing engraved wares with cult designs. These they believe are probably trade wares from Moundville. These sherds are found in levels of the Alafia focus. In the Alligator focus levels which underlie the

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<sup>82</sup>Krieger, "Culture Complexes and Chronology in North Texas," op. cit., pp. 145-146.

<sup>83</sup>Ibid., p. 235.

<sup>84</sup>Op. cit.

<sup>85</sup>Ford and Willey, op. cit.





Alpica focus materials are found fairly on late Coles Creek sherds.<sup>86</sup> Coles Creek sherds are intrusive into Spiro. Therefore, Spiro cult materials precede the Moundville focus.

6. A study of Kincaid trade casts some light upon the relative time of Spiro and Moundville.<sup>87</sup> Found at Kincaid in late period and middle period levels were numerous Moundville sherds. Uncovered in a middle period level was a Flaquemine sherd. Ford and Willey have indicated Flaquemine follows Coles Creek.<sup>88</sup> Late Coles Creek seems to be the same time period as the Spiro cult material. Also, Late Spiro and Sanders sherds are found in Flaquemine.<sup>89</sup> Thus once again we have evidence that Spiro precedes Moundville.

7. Orr in his work at Spiro has found that cult copper work is only abundant in late middle level while in its early middle levels there were numerous other items of the "cult."<sup>90</sup> At Etowah, Moundville and Dallas, copper work is abundant.<sup>91</sup> On the basis of the copper work, we consider Etowah, Moundville and Dallas and Late Middle Spiro as being of the same time period. Therefore, the "cult" (except for copper) was in existence at Spiro first.

8. Krieger, on the basis of datable sherds from the Southwest, has indicated that the Gilson aspect must have ended before 1450.<sup>92</sup> At Kincaid, on the basis of dendrochronology, the

<sup>86</sup> Griffin, personal communication.

<sup>87</sup> MacGillish, "Kincaid Trade Sherds," Unpublished manuscript in the Department of Anthropology, University of Chicago.

<sup>88</sup> Ford and Willey, op. cit.

<sup>89</sup> E. Gimby, personal communication.

<sup>90</sup> R. Orr, op. cit.

<sup>91</sup> Z. Nuttall, op. cit.

<sup>92</sup> A. Krieger, op. cit.





Early Kincaid period has been dated from 1450 to 1520, the Middle Kincaid period as 1520 to 1580, and the last period 1580 to 1650.<sup>93</sup> Moundville trade sherds appear at Kincaid in the middle and late periods, 1520 to 1630.<sup>94</sup> Therefore, Moundville is dated as considerably after the time period at which the Gilson ancient cult material may be dated.

9. Dr. Orr has pointed out that the cult material and variations of cult material as well as other ceremonial art and artifacts manifestations are most numerous at Spiro. Applying the Age Area hypothesis to these facts, one would conclude that Spiro is the center and origin of the cult.

10. In the next chapter I shall establish the fact that many of the Mexican-like ceremonial manifestations are to be found among the Huastec and conclude that they had diffused from that source. This being true, what would be more likely than to have the Caddo area the originators in the southeast as they are nearest to the Huastecs and adjacent to the area in which actual Huastec objects have been found?

On the above evidence it would appear the cult first appeared in the southeast in the Caddo area. Since complicated items of art and artifacts are found throughout the Southeast, it would appear that they arrived at the different parts of the area by diffusion. This being true, then they diffused from the Caddo area. This may be perhaps better illustrated by correlating the various sequences in the southeast and making a chart of the whole area indicating when the cult appeared in each area.

The sequence for the Caddo area (with modifications by

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<sup>93</sup> stated in a speech by Dr. Fay-Cooper Cole at the meetings of the American Anthropological Association at Chicago, December 24, 1946.

<sup>94</sup> *ibid.*, p. 234.





Orr) has been presented by Krieger.<sup>95</sup> This sequence tied to the St. Louis area by Monk Mound Redware trade sherds,<sup>96</sup> and to Louisiana<sup>97</sup> by the trade sherds from Coles Creek and Troyville. This shows Haley, Sanders and Spire are contemporary with Old Village and Coles Creek. Also, late Spire and Sanders' sherds are found in Flaquemin.<sup>98</sup> The northeastern Mississippi area may be tied to the Louisiana area since Coles Creek pottery is found in Alligator focus.<sup>99</sup> The sequential following, Alpine focus may in turn be connected with the Moundville focus on the basis of trade sherds and cult engraved designs on polished black vessels.<sup>100</sup> De Jarnette and Kimberly have indicated that the clay tempered McEllevy focus<sup>101</sup> to be connected with the Alligator focus and also to precede the Moundville materials in northern Alabama. Griffin<sup>102</sup> ties the Stovall-Lamer materials to the Moundville sites on the basis of Moundville sherds in Stovall burials. Willey has also demonstrated that Moccasin Plateau precedes the Lamer material while Okmulgee Fields follows it.<sup>103</sup> Eneberg and Lewis have correlated the Dallas focus of their Hiwassee Island-Dallas-Moccasin Creek sequence in east Tennessee with Moundville.<sup>104</sup> Late Kincaid

<sup>95</sup>Krieger, "Cultural Complexes and Chronology in Northern Texas," op. cit.

<sup>96</sup>Ibid.

<sup>97</sup>Orr, op. cit.

<sup>98</sup>Quincy, personal communication.

<sup>99</sup>Griffin, personal communication.

<sup>100</sup>Ibid.

<sup>101</sup>David De Jarnette and Steve E. Kimberly, "The Besenmer Site: Excavation of Three Mounds and Surrounding Village near Besenmer, Alabama," Biological Survey of Alabama, Bureau Paper No. 17 (University of Alabama, 1941).

<sup>102</sup>Griffin, "Culture and Continuity," op. cit.

<sup>103</sup>Charles Willey, "Periodic Stratigraphy in a Georgia Village Site," American Antiquity, 7, 140-147.

<sup>104</sup>Eneberg and Lewis, Hiwassee Island (University of Tennessee Press, 1947).





and Angali have been demonstrated by Orr<sup>105</sup> as being contemporary while late Kincaid on the basis of trade goods correlated with the last part of Howndville.<sup>106</sup> On the basis of the above data the following chart has been made (see Table 15). From it, it is readily apparent that the cult materials spread eastward from the Cadde area.

Exact dating of when the cult on the Mexican-like objects appeared in the Southeast for the present must be relative. We can, however, state that the cult entered the Cadde area by 1450 A. D.<sup>107</sup> Krieger, I believe, would favor 1400 as the date and he is perhaps correct. The rise of the cult at Spiro through three periods would, I believe, have taken a considerable length of time. The Kincaid site with which I am familiar lasted two hundred years (as tree rings show) and there is little doubt of refuse or radical changes in the artifacts and pottery. Since the changes are more marked at Spiro, I would be inclined to allow at least three hundred or four hundred years for its occupation. Thus I believe we tentatively say that the cult material began somewhere between 1100 and 1200 A. D.

The artifact resemblances between the Southwest and the Cadde area would tend to confirm this early date. Some of the projectile points at Spiro<sup>108</sup> and in Period II and III (900 to 1277)<sup>109</sup> in the Southwest (and also Old Village at Cahokia)<sup>110</sup>

<sup>105</sup> L. Orr, "Culture Change at Kincaid: A Study in Statistical Analysis," (Ph.D. Dissertation, Univ. of Chicago, Dept. of Anthropology, 1944).

<sup>106</sup> Hachelsch, op. cit.

<sup>107</sup> Krieger, "Culture Complexes and Chronology in North Texas," op. cit.

<sup>108</sup> Orr, "The Archaeological Situation at Spiro," op. cit.

<sup>109</sup> J. C. Brown, "Archaeology of Alluvial Mounds, Southeastern Mich.," Records of the Peabody Museum of American Archaeology, 12.





is small triangular projectile points with two side notches and a single basal notch. This point is not common in North America and has a rather distinctive shape that would rarely be invented twice. Since it appears in the Southwest from 800 to 1277 (Pueblo II and Pueblo III) as ascertained by tree rings it would seem safe to conclude that it arrived in the Gadsden area at about the same time. According to Martin, elbow pipes appear in the Southwest in Pueblo III.<sup>111</sup> They are rare at this time and if they are not independent inventions, must be considered diffusion into that area. The obvious place from which they would have diffused is the Southeast since they are very numerous in that area. This type of pipe appears in the Southeast at Temple Mound I times (Spire times) and therefore would have diffused in Pueblo III times (1150 to 1277). If this reconstruction is true, then the early part of Temple Mound I and Spire's could be dated between 800 and 1277. Both kinds of the above evidence could tend to confirm the estimate of Spire starting around 1100 to 1200 A. D.

### Summary

It would appear that in the Southeast in the Gadsden area between 1100 and 1200 A. D. (at the same time the Huasteca were moving up the Tamaulipas coast and at about the time period of the object found in central Texas adjacent to the Gadsden area) there arose a ceremonial manifestation. This so-called cult included many ceremonial concepts reminiscent of Mexico. The so-

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Ethnology (Cambridge, Mass.: Peabody Museum, 1946), Vol. XVI.

<sup>110</sup> Paul F. Titterton, The Cahokia Mound Group and Its Village Site Materials (St. Louis, Missouri, 1935).

<sup>111</sup> Martin, Gimby and Collier, Indians Before Columbus (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1947).



called cult flourished first in the Pacific area and gradually spread westward to other cultures. Eventually it could be traced out in the Pacific area but survived on in cultures east of the Mississippi. Apparently it lasted up until historic times in Florida (1200?) as some spider-like engravings were done on Thompson's mounds. 112 For the most part, however, it did not reach historic times and seems to have flourished during times when the South-west was at its cultural zenith.

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112: see Griffin, op. cit.





[illegible]





### CHAPTER III

#### COMPARISONS BETWEEN THE HUASTEC AND SOUTHEAST PARTICULARLY THE CADDO

##### Introduction

The findings of the survey certainly seem to point to the Huasteca as a possible source of Middle American influence in the Southeast, particularly in the Caddo area. Huastec camp sites are distributed northward along the coast considerably beyond their main habitat; this group was in contact with central Texas groups (adjacent to the Caddo area) and the Caddo foci appeared to have had first the Mexican-like ceremonialism (cult) in the Southeast. The question then becomes, can it be shown that these were elements in the Huasteca of Period V and VI that appear to have diffused to the Southeast and to the Caddo foci, Spiro and Sanders.

Anthropologists have long agreed that there are three necessary criteria in ascertaining diffusion: continuity in time, contiguity of area, and complexity of elements diffused. As has been shown in previous chapters, Huasteca V, though overlapping in time with that of the Sanders and Spiro foci, is generally just a bit earlier. From this one can deduce that any diffusion between the two would in most cases go from the Huastec to the Caddo area. Huasteca Period VI is, of course, contemporaneous. The supposed lack of the contiguity of Mexican cultures with the Southeast has long confused students working on the Southeast-Mexico problem. Estimates of distances between the last Mexican complex cultures and the Southeast have ranged from five hundred to one thousand



miles. These estimates are incorrect. The exact distance from the most northern Huastec camp site Tr<sup>c</sup>45 to the most westward Caddo site, the Chupok site, is actually a distance of about four hundred and fifty miles. The distance from the Chupok site (Alto focus) to the most northern Brownsville complex site (a culture shown to have been intimately connected with the Huasteca) in northern Cameron County, Texas, is only about three hundred and forty miles. The Mexican objects (many of which are Huasteca) that are found in central Texas are, of course, contiguous to the Caddo area. Therefore, there appears to be more or less contiguity between the Caddo area and the Huasteca. However, the final criterion is the most important. Can it be shown that objects of a complex or individualistic nature, or a group of such elements, are found in both the Caddo area (Spire and Sanders foci) and the Huastec of Period V and Period VI? In the following pages I shall list and describe much ceremonial art and many artifacts of a fairly intricate nature that appear in the Caddo area (also the ones in the Caddo area as well as the rest of the Southeast) and in the Huasteca. This evidence should indicate that there had been diffusion from the Huastec of Period V to the Sanders and Spire foci of the Gibson aspect of the Caddo area and vice versa. We also should deduce from this fact that the Huastec were the source of the Mexican-like elements in the Caddo area which later spread over the rest of the Southeast.

#### A Comparison of Caddo and Huastec Similarities

1. There have been found at Spire a number of shell gorgets with engraved human figures on them. In front of the mouth of some of these figures will be found a carved scroll or





long forked objects.<sup>113</sup> Since these scrolls or forked objects are twice the length of the head it seems safe to assume that they are not tongues (Plate XXVI, figure 1). Some Mexicans have immediately classified these objects as being speech scrolls. Du Solier found painted figures at Tancuin.<sup>114</sup> Protruding from the mouths of figures 7, 8, 10, and 12 may be seen the same long scrolls (speech scrolls) (Plate XXVI, figure 2). Thus it would appear that speech scrolls were common to Huastec V (Tancuin ruin) and the Spiro focus.

2. On the head of one of the figures, carved in shell, found at Spiro, is a small conical cap.<sup>115</sup> Beyer has discussed the significance of the conical cap among the Huastec on shell gorgets. He considers it to be diagnostic of the Huasteca art.<sup>116</sup> Ekholm has pointed out that the shell gorgets first appear in the Tempico-ance (Huastec) sequence in Period V<sup>117</sup> and probably continue on into Period VI. Therefore, the conical cap appears in Spiro and Huastec V and VI.

3. A number of Spiro figures carved on shell appear to be carrying a round ended club or rattle. This club has a long thin handle and on the end of it may be seen a round extension bearing a cross inside this circle.<sup>118</sup> This object I have named the round ended baton (Plate XXVI, figure 3). Figure 6 of the

<sup>113</sup>Edward T. Bennett and Forest S. Clements, "The Spiro Mound Collection in the Museum," and "Historical Sketch of the Spiro Mound," Contributions from the Museum of the American Indian, Beyer Foundation, Vol. XIV (New York, 1945), Plats I-IV.

<sup>114</sup>Wilfrid Du Solier, "Primer Fresco Mural Huasteco," Boletín de Guadalupe Americanos (Mexico, D. V., 1946), p. 154.

<sup>115</sup>Collections of the University Of Oklahoma, Norman, Okla.

<sup>116</sup>Beyer, op. cit., p. 173.

<sup>117</sup>Ekholm, op. cit.

<sup>118</sup>University of Oklahoma Collection.





paintings of Tanuin is holding the identical object in his hand (Plate XXVI, figure 4).<sup>119</sup> Spiro and Tanuin are the only two locations in North America at which this object is represented.

4. Besides batons held in the hand many of the Spiro figures appear to be carrying a snake.<sup>120</sup> This snake is vertical and the head is usually down. Figures at Tanuin<sup>121</sup> as well as figure on shell gorgets have this same vertical snake with the head pointed down.<sup>122</sup>

5. On one of the shell gorgets from Spiro are two vertically entwined serpents with their heads pointed downward.<sup>123</sup> On the majority of the Huasteca triangular shell gorgets that Beyer illustrates will be found a similar vertically entwined serpent with its head at the base of the gorget.<sup>124</sup>

6. One Spiro shell gorget<sup>125</sup> and at least one Sanders shell gorget<sup>126</sup> have a human face covered in relief on shell. Over the top of these heads appears to be a roll or serpent. The shell gorget described as a trade piece from the Huasteca found in the Brownsville complex is the same.<sup>127</sup>

7. A couple of details concerning the carving of eyes on Spiro shell gorgets<sup>128</sup> and the painting at Tanuin<sup>129</sup> are the same.

<sup>119</sup>Du Sallier, op. cit., p. 150.

<sup>120</sup>Burnett and Clements, op. cit., Plate XXVIII.

<sup>121</sup>Du Sallier, op. cit.

<sup>122</sup>Beyer, op. cit.

<sup>123</sup>Burnett and Clements, op. cit., Plate XXVIII.

<sup>124</sup>Beyer, op. cit.

<sup>125</sup>Burnett and Clements, op. cit.

<sup>126</sup>University of Texas collections.

<sup>127</sup>Ibid.

<sup>128</sup>University of Oklahoma collections.

<sup>129</sup>Du Sallier, op. cit.



In both the cases the eye is in the form of a scroll with circle part downward on the face and the stem pointing toward the back of the head.

8. Related to the scroll eyes are the feathered eyes. These eyes are elliptical in shape and have four or five radiating spokes extending from its posterior portion. One was found at Spiro<sup>130</sup> and the left hand figure of Plate I in Boyer's article on Huasteco shell gorgets shows another.<sup>131</sup>

9. On a number of Spiro gorgets there appear to be masks or paint covering the lower portion of the face of this figure.<sup>132</sup> This face decoration is duplicated in the painting of Tanuin<sup>133</sup> and on one shell gorget illustrated by Boyer.<sup>134</sup>

10. There are, besides these similarities in art, a number of artifacts that are very significant. Among artifacts not so startlingly similar are spherical shell beads with holes drilled from two sides. Mikolm found such at the Las Flores,<sup>135</sup> and such were also found at Spiro.<sup>136</sup>

11. Perhaps of greater significance is the finding of a circular spindle whorl in the shape of a flattened cone at Spiro.<sup>137</sup> The shape of this spindle whorl is identical to those Mikolm found in the Taspico-Tanuco region in Period V deposits.

<sup>130</sup>University of Oklahoma collection.

<sup>131</sup>Boyer, op. cit.

<sup>132</sup>Burnett and Clements, op. cit., Plate XVI.

<sup>133</sup>Du Solier, op. cit., figure 4.

<sup>134</sup>Boyer, op. cit.

<sup>135</sup>Mikolm, op. cit.

<sup>136</sup>Orr, "The Archaeological Site at Spiro," op. cit.

<sup>137</sup>Burnett and Clements, op. cit., Plate XXIV, figure o, called a bead.





PLATE XXVII

A COMPARISON OF CADDO AND HUASTEC  
PIPES



1.



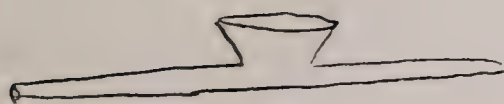
2.



3.



4.



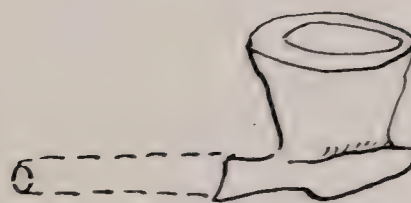
5.



6.



7.



8.



9.

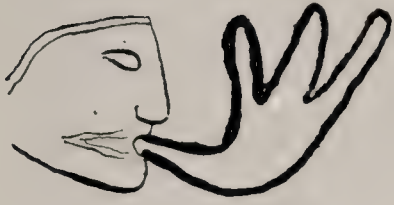


10.





PLATE XXVI  
A COMPARISON OF CADDO AND  
HUASTEC DESIGNS



1.



3.



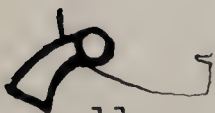
5.



7.



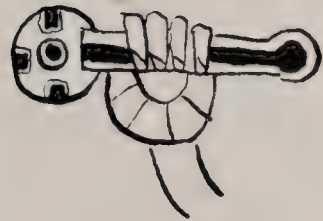
9.



11.



2.



4.



6.



8.



10.



12.



12. Of equal importance are wood shod copper ear plugs found at both Spire<sup>138</sup> and at the Las Flores site in the <sup>139</sup> ~~district~~.

13. Perhaps the best case for diffusion is the six pipe types, four of which are found nowhere else in the world except in the Caddo area and the Irostecca. One of the types showing greatest similarity is a short tubular stemmed type with a flaring conical bowl. Extending from the tip of the bowl to the base of the bowl on the opposite side to the stem is a loop handle. Du Solier found one at Gussakarsar<sup>140</sup> (Period VI) (Plate XXVII, figure 1), while others have been found in the deposits of the Titus focus in east Texas (Plate XXVII, figure 2).<sup>141</sup>

14. Also, Du Solier found in the San Luis Potosi a large pipe (seven inches long) (Plate XXVII, figure 4). This pipe has a tubular stem, tapering at each end slightly and has a centrally located vertical bowl.<sup>141</sup> This pipe can be duplicated in the Spire materials.<sup>142</sup> (Plate XXVII, figure 3.)

15. Similar to this type are smaller platform pipes with the hollowed stem portion being slightly longer than the extension and having a conical bowl. This type is diagnostic of the Alto focus of Texas.<sup>144</sup> (Plate XXVII, figure 5.) Two such pipes are in a display case at the Field Museum in Chicago and are labeled

<sup>138</sup> Burnett and Clements, op. cit.

<sup>139</sup> Minckley, op. cit.

<sup>140</sup> Du Solier, A. Krieger, and Griffin, op. cit.

<sup>141</sup> Krieger, "Culture Complexes and Chronology in northern Texas," op. cit.

<sup>142</sup> First Caddo Irostecca.

<sup>143</sup> Burnett and Clements, op. cit.

<sup>144</sup> Krieger, "Culture Complexes and Chronology in Northern Texas," op. cit.





as coming from Huastec sites in San Luis Potosí (Plate XXVII, figure 6.)

16. Found in the Sanders and Titus foci of east Texas are elbow pipes with a short stem and a flange at the base of the bowl on the side opposite the stem.<sup>145</sup> (Plate XXVII, figure 7.) Ekholm illustrated the same type for the Huastec of Period V.<sup>146</sup> (Plate XXVII, figure 8.)

17. Simple elbow pipes with two small knobs at the base of the bowl were found by Ekholm in the Tampico-Panuco region in Period V deposits.<sup>147</sup> (Plate XXVII, figure 10.) A similar type, though the basal knobs are not so pronounced, is found in the Sanders and Titus foci of east Texas (Plate XXVII, figure 9).<sup>148</sup>

18. Effigy pipes are to be found in both the Huastec and Caddo areas. Generally speaking, they show considerable variation. However, common to the Spiro foci<sup>149</sup> and the Huastec of Period V are elbow pipes with a human figure attached to and facing the opposite direction of the stem.<sup>150</sup>

19. A. Krieger has previously noted the occurrence of the carinated vessel form in both the Huastec and the Caddo areas.<sup>151</sup>

20. More recently Griffin, Krieger and Du Solier have

<sup>145</sup> Krieger, ibid.

<sup>146</sup> Ekholm, op. cit.

<sup>147</sup> ibid.

<sup>148</sup> Krieger, "Culture Complexes and Chronology in Northern Texas," op. cit.

<sup>149</sup> Orr, "The Archaeological Situation at Spiro," op. cit.

<sup>150</sup> Ekholm, op. cit.

<sup>151</sup> Krieger, "An Inquiry into Supposed Mexican Influences on a Prehistoric 'Cult' in the Southern United States," op. cit.





published a paper on some pottery resemblances between Huastec Period VI pottery from San Luis Potosí and the Titus focus pottery.<sup>152</sup> The resemblance lies in vessel forms that have curvilinear engraved designs filled with red point on a polished black surface. Many of the engraved designs are identical and make independent invention very unlikely.

21. Besides the art and artifact similarities there are three burial custom resemblances in the Cade area and in San Luis Potosí. They consist of apoches of human skulls, skull-be decorated burials in a pit and cremations.<sup>153</sup> They may indicate some sort of a connection.

22. A final similarity of interest is different beliefs as to be found in the use of fronto-lambdoidal cranial deformation as practiced and in the Huastec.<sup>154</sup>

#### Comparisons of the Huastec and the Southeast

The following similarities are between the Southeast and the Huastec of Period V. Many of the elements listed are also found in the Titus focus of the Cade area and appear to have moved from that area eastward. The elements described above found in the Southeast culture are usually considered of the 'cult' and indicative of Mexican influence.

1. Truncated pyramids (often rebuilt) composed of soil have long been noted as similarities between the Huastec area and the Southeast.<sup>155</sup>

2. Associated with truncated pyramids is the arrangement

<sup>152</sup> In Solier, Krieger, and Griffin, op. cit.

<sup>153</sup> Ibid.

<sup>154</sup> George Bonser, personal communication.

<sup>155</sup> Ibid., op. cit.



of these pyramids around a plaza area. This, of course, is widespread in central America but does not appear before Mississippian times in the Southeast.<sup>156</sup>

3. Effigy vessels though not mentioned as belonging to the cult by Waring or Helder have their greatest abundance in the Southeast during the times of the "cult." These also appear after Period V in the Tampico-Panuco region.<sup>157</sup>

4. Columella pendants were found by Ekholm in the Huasteca<sup>158</sup> and Waring and Helder indicate that such are part of the "cult."<sup>159</sup> Not only do columella pendants appear at late sites in the Southeast but the figures on the shell gorgets are depicted as wearing them.

5. Circular gorgets of shell with engraved designs on them are rather obviously common to the Southeast and the Huasteca. In the Southeast circular gorgets of shell are perhaps the most diagnostic and most numerous traits in the "cult" materials. Ekholm has further indicated that shell gorgets in the Huasteca, both the round and triangular type, do not appear before Period V times.<sup>160</sup> An interesting point was made at the Cadde conference in that the piercing on a round shell gorget from Spire (shown on a slide) were noted as being identical to the one illustrated by Beyer in Plate VII, lower portion.<sup>161</sup>

6. Beyer shows in his article a Huastec figure holding what is obviously a hefted cult.<sup>162</sup> Waring and Helder record

<sup>156</sup> Ibid.

<sup>157</sup> Ekholm, op. cit.

<sup>158</sup> Ibid.

<sup>159</sup> Waring and Helder, op. cit.

<sup>160</sup> Ekholm, op. cit.

<sup>161</sup> Beyer, op. cit.

<sup>162</sup> Ibid.





their object as part of the "cult" in the Southeast occurring at Moundville, Etowah and Spiro. Further they indicate it is generically connected with the monolithic axes that occur in the Southeast.<sup>183</sup>

7. Tripartite bottles are found at Spiro, Moundville and Etowah. One type has three bulbous feet, a globular body and a straight neck. This type is the most generally distributed in the Southeast.<sup>184</sup> Mahon found a similar vessel with an oblique neck in Feature III, Period V at the Las Flores site near Tempe, Arizona.<sup>185</sup>

8. Besides these ceremonial object similarities there appears to be resemblances in the motifs of the Inuit and the culture of the Southeast. Perhaps the simplest is the Greek cross inside of a circle. Holmes has amply illustrated the occurrence of this type in the Southeast.<sup>186</sup> Faring and Helder have connected it with the "cult."<sup>187</sup> Figures 4, 5, and 6 of the Tannian painting are wearing ear ornaments that display this motif.<sup>188</sup>

9. Closely related to the Greek Cross motif is the Swastika or rolling cross inside a circle. Faring and Helder have amply illustrated the occurrence of this motif in the Southeast<sup>189</sup> while Beyer illustrated a shell gorget in Figure 24 that

<sup>183</sup> Faring and Helder, op. cit.

<sup>184</sup> Ibid., p. 14.

<sup>185</sup> Mahon, op. cit., p. 401.

<sup>186</sup> William. E. Holmes, "Aboriginal Pottery of the Eastern United States," Twentieth Annual Report, Bureau of American Ethnology, Washington, 1903.

<sup>187</sup> Faring and Helder, op. cit.

<sup>188</sup> Du Solier, op. cit.

<sup>189</sup> Faring and Helder, op. cit., p. 3.





has a figure wearing a round ear object inside of which may be seen a rolling cross or Swastika.<sup>170</sup>

10. Patterns of less diagnostic value are the Circles or concentric circles with scalloped outer edges. The design is common throughout the Southwest in motifs of Mississippian times.<sup>171</sup>

Figure 11 of the Tamuin *twisting* has such circles attached to its wrists.<sup>172</sup>

11. The Death Motif consisting of a profile view of a human skull occurs at Spiro, rarely in the Mississippi Valley and are common at Moundville and Etowah.<sup>173</sup> (Plate XXVI, figure 5.)

At Moundville the occipital region of the skull commonly has a scalloped line inside of it.<sup>174</sup> Beyer illustrates a side view of a skull with a scalloped occipital region as appearing in the Huastec Period V.<sup>175</sup> (Plate XXVI, figure 6.)

12. Often associated with the skull in both the Southeast<sup>176</sup> and in the Huastec of Period V of San Luis Potosí are human figures.<sup>177</sup>

13. The Forked Eye occurs in many variations and may have circumocular marking which may be forked, tri-forked, or it may be zig-zag lines or two diverging lines from the eye down the face. It occurs on figures of human, bird or animal at all the

<sup>170</sup> Beyers, op. cit.

<sup>171</sup> Haring and Helder, op. cit., p. 3.

<sup>172</sup> Du Solier, op. cit.

<sup>173</sup> Haring and Helder, op. cit., p. 5.

<sup>174</sup> Z. Hattall, op. cit.

<sup>175</sup> Beyer, op. cit., Plate II.

<sup>176</sup> Haring and Helder, op. cit., p. 5.

<sup>177</sup> Du Solier, personal communication.



sites in the Southeast having cult material.<sup>173</sup> It has been interpreted as being the Flashing Eye of the Thunderbird,<sup>173</sup> as imitations of the markings on Falcon,<sup>180</sup> and as a weeping eye.<sup>181</sup> The only thing analogous to it in Mexico is the weeping eye. Meade illustrates one occurring on a Huastec statue.<sup>182</sup> This may be indicative of a connection between the Huastec and the Southeast. However, since the forked eye with a curved fork (not a pointed one as in the cult material) appears on carved copper gorgets of the Hopewell culture this may be the source for the Southeast.<sup>183</sup>

14. An eye in the palm or back of the hand occurs at Spiro and is common at Etowah and Moundville.<sup>184</sup> This motif is common in Mexico in cultures of the Tula-Mexapan time period. The only occurrence of this in the Huastecs appears to be at the base of a shell gorget illustrated by Meade.<sup>185</sup> There may be seen five finger-like projections extending down a truncated object. (Possibly the palm or back of the hand.) In the center of this truncated object is a hole surrounded by a circle that may represent an eye. I feel sure that once the carving of the Huastec is better known, better executed hand and eye designs

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<sup>173</sup>Waring and Helder, op. cit., p. 4.

<sup>174</sup>H. J. Wintenberg, "Certain Eye Designs on the Archaeological Artifacts from North America," Transactions of the Royal Society of Canada, 3rd series, Vol. XVII (Ottawa, 1923).

<sup>180</sup>Meade, "Las representaciones en el arte y en las ceremonias de los antiguos Peruanos," Revista del Museo Nacional de Lima (Lima, Peru: 1932), Vol. I.

<sup>181</sup>Bennett, op. cit.

<sup>182</sup>Meade, op. cit., p. 60.

<sup>183</sup>Dr. Titterton's photographic files from Snyder site of Illinois.

<sup>184</sup>Waring and Helder, op. cit.

<sup>185</sup>Meade, op. cit.





will be found. I say this because the God Quetzalcoatl is often found associated with hand and eye symbols in other parts of Mexico and representations of Quetzalcoatl are common in Huastec art.

15. The final motif found in the Southeast is the so-called bi-lobed arrow.<sup>186</sup> It consists of an arrow which has two half circles on either side of the shaft, often connected by a bar. The exact function of such an object is difficult to determine as it appears as a hair ornament, being held in the hand and alone. In Aztec drawings, the God, Mixcoatl Chichimecatl, which Beyer proves to be a Huastec God, is shown carrying a similar object.<sup>187</sup> Here the object is a large arrow (or spear) with two small half circles located just above the center. Superficially the bilobed arrow of the Southeast and the implement of the Huastec God, Mixcoatl appear to be the same. Further knowledge and depictions of the Huastec Gods would help considerably.

16. Appearing on the shell gorgets of the Southeast are a number of "God-animal" representations. Perhaps the most common "God-animal" figure is that of the rattlesnake.<sup>188</sup> Held in the hand of Figure 9 of the painting from Tamuin is a snake that by its circular body spots must be identified as a rattlesnake.<sup>189</sup>

17. However, Waring and Holder also list horned snake as a cult figure in the Southeast<sup>190</sup> and such appears to hold in the

<sup>186</sup>Waring and Holder, op. cit.

<sup>187</sup>Beyer, op. cit., Figure 4.

<sup>188</sup>Waring and Holder, op. cit.

<sup>189</sup>Du Solier, op. cit.

<sup>190</sup>Waring and Holder, op. cit.







[Drafts and plates for MacNish's  
doctoral dissertation "Prehistoric relationships  
between the cultures of the Southwestern..."]

